

British Empire in Asia

I. Peoples & Places in the Gulf of Aden

(Perim, Aden, Lahej, Socotra, & Bahrein Islands)

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Author of "Perfumes of Araby"

Separate articles are devoted to Burma, Ceylon, India, and Nepal. Here are described in a series of six articles (including an historical outline) the lands and islands of the Gulf of Aden, British Borneo and Sarawak, Hongkong, the Straits Settlements and the Malay States, which comprise the rest of the British Empire in Asia

PERIM is a small, rocky island in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb.

Commanding the entrance to the Red Sea, it is separated from the Arabian mainland by a narrow channel, not usually traversed by ships. The British visited it first in 1799, when a naval force was sent from Great Britain, with troops from India, to occupy it and prevent the French in Egypt from communicating with the Indian Ocean. To-day it is garrisoned by a detachment of Arab troops from Aden, and the British officer in command is ex-officio assistant to the Resident of Aden. Perim is barren and wind-swept. A few gazelle wander about. There are the offices and coal depot of the Perim Coal Company, Lloyd's signal station, and two lighthouses. The inhabitants, other than coal coolies, engage in fishing.

Ninety-six miles east of Perim is

Aden. The Arabia Felix of the Romans, it was the chief port of the Minaean and Sabaeen dynasties. Temporarily in eclipse under the

Himyaritic kings, Aden regained its position by the fourth century A.D., when Constantius negotiated for the erection there of a church.

Coming in to Aden, there lies on the left the group of hills known as Little Aden (Jebel Ihsan). Here the inhabitants are mostly fisherfolk, and here is netted the dugong, the origin of the merman and mermaid. The average tourist believes Aden to be a coal depot only. He may land to see the Tanks (probably of Persian origin) situate five miles off in the Crater, or he may visit "Sarelas" for silks.

He cannot fail to see the heights of Shamshan, vulgarly called Shumshum, at an altitude of 1,725 feet. The charms of Adenia are evident. The



CORRECT USE OF JAMBIÂH

The jambiah is a much favoured weapon of the Lahej Arab. Behind its sheath he carries his store of treasures, including tweezers, leather-piercer, and an army razor—if he can get it—for use as a pocket-knife.

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glorious sunsets behind Little Aden are well known to artists; the so-called "barren rocks of Aden" are the hunting ground of monkeys and many wild fowl, while 132 different botanical specimens have been culled from the earth-filled crevices of these volcanic rocks. The possibilities of oil are promising. Aden is the home of many nationalities, and of Arabs there are many diverse types. The coffee-houses

abutting into the streets are reminiscent of Egypt and the East. Here local politics are discussed and Egyptian papers pored over.

The rainfall of Aden is variable, the average annual fall being four inches. The absence of heavy rain is one cause of its comparative immunity from diseases. The temperature rarely reaches 100° F. May and June are excessively hot months.

In July and August, monsoon-winds blow. In September the wind drops, and the nights are unbearable.

In addition to the lovely sunsets, Aden Harbour provides two beautiful spectacles: the rock itself, seen from the deck of a ship in the inner harbour at full moon; and the harbour at Maala, viewed from the vantage ground of the main pass as the sun rises over the isthmus position and lights up the native craft riding at anchor in the bay, with the islands in the background. Yet another recollection vouchsafed to the camel-rider returning from Lahej is this same rock of Aden at about 10 a.m., when the hot sands are galling to the camels' padded feet, and the sirocco-like winds of June have well-nigh quenched the rider's joy in life. The sight of old Aden's "barren" Shumshum brings relief, and one fails to grasp the Arab poet's pessimistic allusion to "the sad seashores of Aden."

Then, the desert with its shifting sand dunes, as one rides towards Lahej, leaving behind one the veneer of Sheikh Othman's civilization. Camel



SOMALI KHULASSI OR MESSENGER, ADEN

He is of the same tribe as and a distant relation of the "Mad Mullah." An expert spear-thrower, taught to throw as soon as he could walk, he can "stick" an orange three times out of four at fifty yards



HINDU BARBER AT WORK IN THE NATIVE QUARTER, CRATER, ADEN

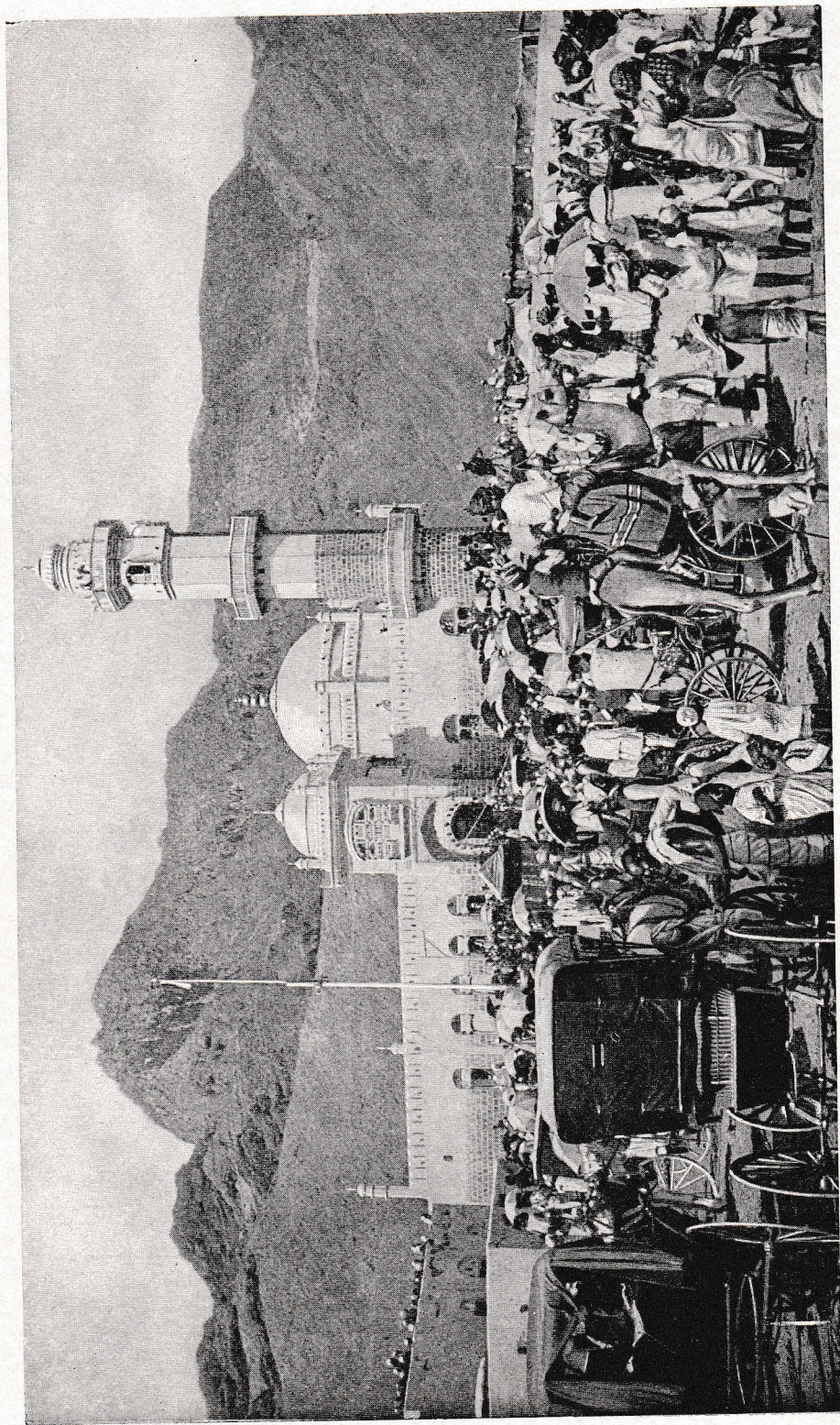
The Hindus who have made Aden their home are mostly Banian traders, artisans, and menial servants. Many of them have small unpretending shops, others carry on their particular trade in the open streets. The barber's profession is not to be despised in this hot and arid land, where, in conformity with custom and convenience, closely-shaven heads are favoured alike by those of high and low degree

caravans of 30 to 40 camels, strung together tail to head, are coming from the interior. The swarthy riders sway to and fro in their saddles. There is a sudden snatch of song—a tribute to some dusky damsel left in rocky fastness; calls on Allah to exterminate the slothful cameline brood, for did not the Prophet say "Verily in its hump resides Satan the stoned"? Indescribable is the desert's charm. One realizes the Presence of his Maker, and the littleness of life are forgotten as one harks to the music of "the tinkling of the camel-bell."

Surely there is a soul of Aden, as elusive as the soul of Egypt's Sphinx. Aden has yet to give up her secret. She has been the Cinderella of the East—just an ugly, desolate coal-dump; but to those who look below the

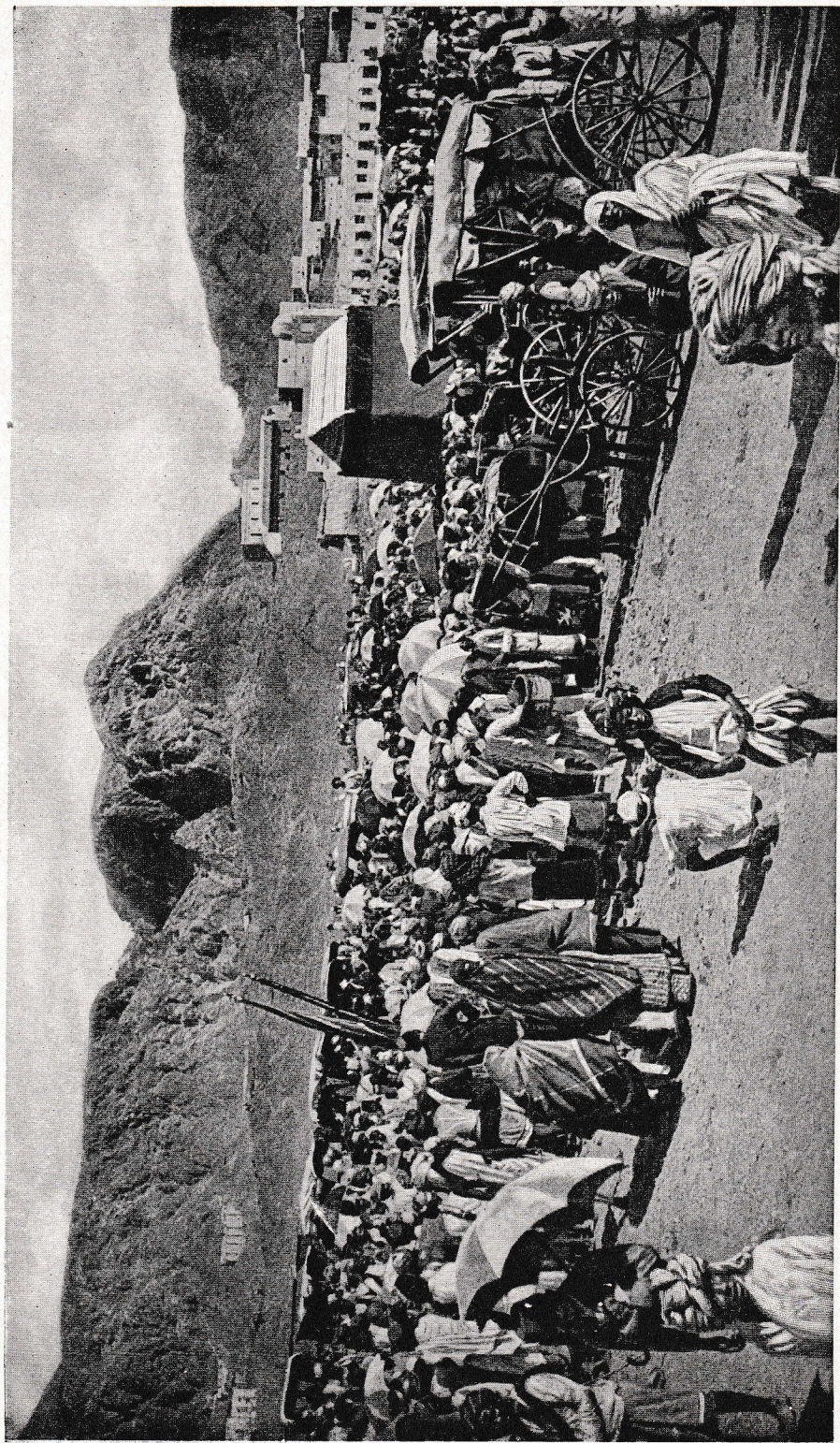
unreality of appearances, there is borne a feeling of the existence of the shades of long-past dynasties. Here, in truth, to quote Walt Whitman, are "living beings, identities, doubtless near us in the air, that we know not of, whose contact daily and hourly will not release us."

Landing at the Prince of Wales' Pier you are faced by a war memorial, all strangely out of keeping with its environment. On the right is the Jopp Promenade and garden, in memory of a former Political Resident. Here, of an evening, parade Arabs, Jews, and Indians, children at their games—the whole mingling with the strict observers of the sunset prayer. You pass the Union Club, your eye drawn up to the imposing residence on the hill of the First Assistant Resident, and the Hogg



MAHOMEDAN FEAST OF "BURRA DEEN" AT THE MOSQUE OF AIDRUS VALLEY IN THE CRATER, ADEN

This is the great local Mahomedan holiday to celebrate the arrival from Mecca of the Holy Carpet. The procession is about to be formed, and the crowds grow thicker with every minute. They come on foot, on camels, in carriages—an incongruous mixture of town and country Arabs, Somalis, Seedees, Persians, and Indians. Bigotry and fanaticism are chiefly confined to the lower and uneducated classes, and are perhaps especially apparent in the Somalis



CROWD FORMING UP FOR THE GRAND PROCESSION WHICH ESCORTS THE HOLY CARPET

The Carpet is carried under a canopy of bright scarlet cloth ornamented with gold stencilling, seen to the right of the picture. This "Visitation" excites keen religious fervour among the Mahomedan population of Aden and the neighbouring districts, for all classes of Moslems in Aden are especially attentive to their devotions and pray the full five times a day, and a great religious ceremony, such as the Feast of "Burra Deen," has no lack of devout attendants

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Clock Tower, a witness to the memory of another and bygone Resident. Leaving on your left the Roman Catholic church and school, and the civil hospital on the rocks, you pass the Anglican church and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute and swing past Morbat Fort on the right, as you emerge from under the over-bridge and debouch on the playing fields.

To your left, high on the hill, stand the barracks, to the right the soldiers' swimming bath in the historic "Khaisat Kamandar," or the "Bay of the Commander" (Haines). An incline will take you up to Tarshain Fort and the Residency. Going straight on, you swing round to more soldiers' playing grounds, and pass the bay and sands loved by white children; then the quarters of the Eastern Telegraph Company, the freshest site of Aden; on and down over a bridge to a bay and a swimming pool sacred to Europeans, where your journey abruptly ends at

Elephant's Back and the lighthouse flashing over the Indian Ocean. Over all these towers Shumshum.

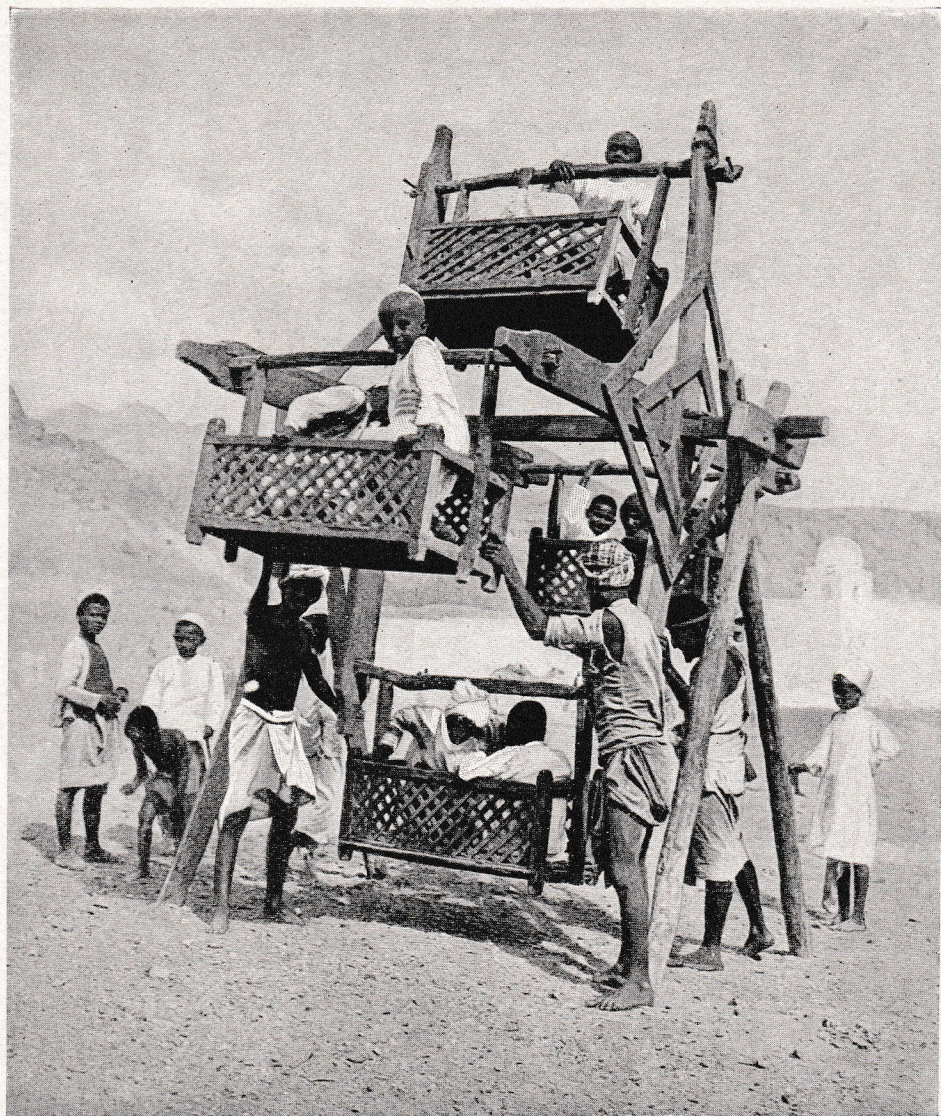
Restarting from the Prince of Wales' Pier, you take a taxicab and strike to the left through the crescent. Here you first see Aden's coal on the premises of the P. & O. Company. Here are the hotels, the European shops, bank, port, trust offices, and cricket ground. Journeying rapidly on, you pass coal stacks galore along the shore, and driving up an incline through the Hejuf Gate you enter on the plain of Maala. Here is Aden's necropolis.

Hurrying along past the railhead of the Aden-Lahej railway, and the village of Somalipura, you see the dhow-building industry and timber yards, the Maala wharves, and Lodge Felix, where once a year the sweeper caste of African Jabertis are said by Aden folk to hand over for food the person of a succulent Arab child snatched stealthily from its parents. Again, over all, tower



FESTIVE AMUSEMENTS SUCCEED RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

After the procession a fair is held and kept up to a late hour. Numerous booths supply coffee, sweet-meats and toys, but the chief diversion of the elders is dancing, every tribe having its own dancers and circle of spectators. The whirligig men gather in annas and rupees with avidity. There is no losing game, and whatever their fortunes outside the fair, they "make up on the roundabouts"



ARABIAN CHILDREN ENJOYING "ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR"

As is usual in Arabia on festive occasions, everyone puts on gay and clean apparel; even the smallest children wear little shirts or loin-cloths which, in the morning, at any rate, are of snowy whiteness. Swings are in vogue, and this primitive "Big-Wheel" is the centre of attraction. It revolves speedily or leisurely, according to the fancy of the men who manipulate its crude and creaky mechanism

the peaks of Shumshum, the tutelary deity of the rock. The Maala is truly a sombre locality. An Arab will curse with the fateful words: "May the Jinns snatch thee away to Maala!"

At the end of the plain, one road leads to the right and zigzags up to the main pass and into the Crater, while the left road turns round by the isthmus position and runs out some eight miles to Sheikh Othman, the frontier station. Yet another road leads through the

isthmus and passes through two tunnels to the Crater. Negotiating the zigzag incline, you pass on the right the ever-growing and yet never full Jewish cemetery, till you come to the main pass. From this point you see the beginning of the elaborate fortifications built at enormous cost shortly after Aden's capture in 1839.

Entering the main pass, you see overhead an inaccessible headland where Cain, the Koranic Kabil, is said to be



TROUPE OF ITINERANT DANCERS PERFORMING TO THE MUSIC OF TOMTOMS IN THE STREETS OF ADEN

The amusements of the Arabs and Somalis are none of a violent character, as might be judged from the nature of the people themselves. Dancing, perhaps, requires the greatest amount of physical exertion. Some Arab women prefer this rough-and-tumble existence on the streets to the monotony of the harem, and the profession is the resort of the abandoned wives of Somalis who, having had their fill of a strange people, forsake them and return to their native country



SOMALI HOUSEWIFE OF ADEN SMOKING THE WEED THAT SOOTHES

This is her favourite relaxation in the midst of arduous household duties. With the snake-like tube of the hookah in her mouth, she will smoke awhile and forget domestic troubles. Her necklace and bracelets are composed of amber beads, and the base of the hookah is formed from a coconut shell, inlaid with brass, gold, and silver. Beside it is a "coosa," or native unglazed pottery water-flask

buried. The car now dips down into the Crater—the real Aden, where live and move the teeming thousands of the settlement. Here is situate the old winter residence of Captain Haines, the first British ruler of Aden. The old yellow house is tucked up against the hillside, and is now fittingly used as the guest house for Arab chiefs and entourage.

Across the way stands a Hindu temple, one of two in Aden, its existence assured by the incontrovertible fact of the Pax Britannica. From this point a path straggles up the rock, and some 35 minutes later you are gazing from the top of Shumshum, both seawards and towards the imposing heights of Jebel Dubiyat, Warwa, the home of ibex, and Jihaf. The Aden hinterland is a congeries of hills and smiling vales, once visited by British troops as a sanatorium.

The Aden bazaars are a never-failing source of interest. Squalor there may be in parts, but there is life, and life that is full of joy and dependence on Allah—the Arabs' Predominant Partner.

The island of Sirah is now joined to the mainland by a causeway. It was the scene of much fighting long before Haines arrived with his ships. Aden is a volcano—extinct, we cannot say. In the bowels of Sirah is a raging fiery furnace, say the Arabs, which Allah will summon forth on "the day of gathering." Passing through the southern gates of Hokat, one drops down into one of Aden's earliest British cemeteries. Proceeding, we come to the end of the tour by ascending the incline, which brings us to Marshag lighthouse. In the Crater is the principal mosque of Al Aidrus, and around it the burial ground of Aden's élite. Here only the

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privileged few may hope for sepulture against the day when "the trump shall be sounded, and lo, they shall speed out of their sepulchres to their Lord!"

Driving back through the two tunnels, redolent of camels, we pass through the isthmus position where once British troops were quartered, now an arsenal and a dairy. We are out on the Sheikh Othman road, and pass rapidly Khor Maksar, where are quarters of the Aden troop, the polo ground, and the Khor Maksar golf club; pass the salt pans, one of Aden's remunerative industries, and after 20 minutes' run, arrive at the village of Sheikh Othman. The place was occupied in July, 1915, by Turks and Arabs, who were driven out on July 21st, 1915.

In Sheikh is the house of one of the assistant residents, who is superintendent of this now thriving centre, which was started in 1881 as a dumping ground for Aden's undesirables. You must not leave Sheikh Othman without inspecting the headquarters and the hospital of the Keith Falconer Mission. The founder lies buried in the Hokat Bay cemetery, but many have followed to take up his work.

The trade of Aden is largely one of trans-shipment. Hides and skins are brought from the interior and from Somaliland. Coffee (so-called mocha) is brought from the ex-Turkish district of Hujariya, from the hills of Menakha, and from the Yafa country within the Aden Protectorate. Ivory hails from Abyssinia. The majority of Aden's



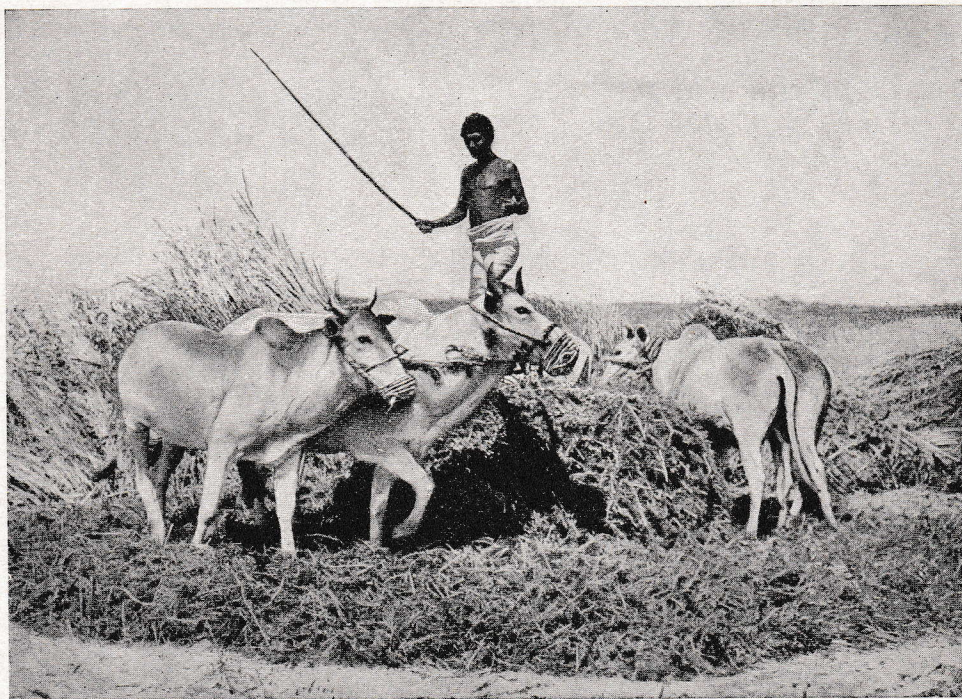
MEMBERS OF THE BODYGUARD OF SULTAN OF LAHEJ

The turban of silk or cotton is rolled jauntily round the head, a white shirt-jacket may or may not be worn, the variegated kilt is kept firmly in place by a coloured waistband, which supports the favourite weapon, the jambiāh or jumbiā. In a real sense the Sultan is the father of his people, for a large proportion of the men are his sons by his numerous wives, of whom he is credibly reported to have over three hundred



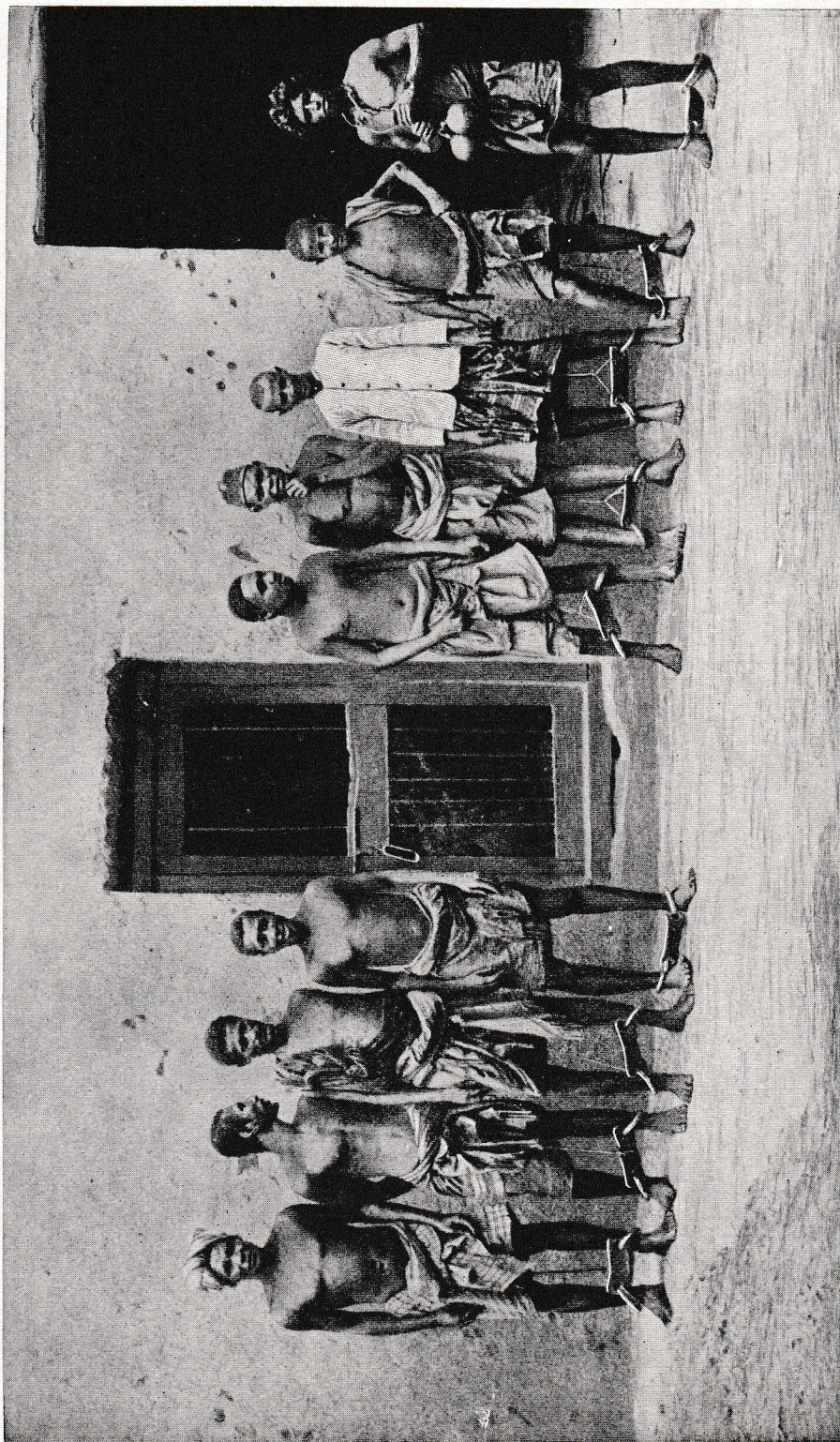
CAMELS LADEN WITH BRUSHWOOD ENTERING TAWAHI BAZAAR

Although Aden is a coaling station, yet for cooking purposes firewood is extensively used and difficult to get in so arid a district. Large quantities are brought from many miles up-country, and consist of either dried branches or logs of babool wood. They are sold by weight or can be bought by "the load," the latter method involving much bargaining and lengthy argument.



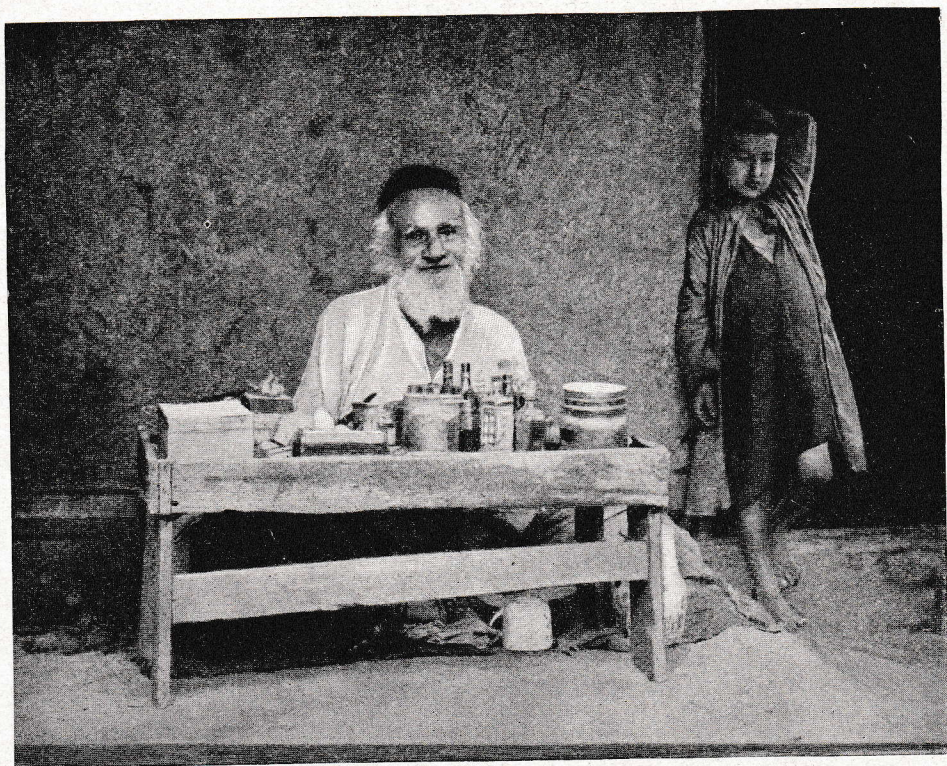
ARAB TREADMILL FOR THRESHING "JOWARI," LOCAL GRAIN OF ADEN

The bullocks are tethered to a central stake, around which the jowari is piled and beaten out by the repeated treading of the hoofs. The Arab method of muzzling the bullocks during the process of threshing, to prevent their eating the grain, is in direct opposition to the Mosaic law, which decrees: "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn." Three crops of jowari are obtained from one sowing, and there are many quaint customs connected with irrigation and tenure of land.



JAIL-BIRDS UNDER LOCK AND KEY IN THE NATIVE PRISON OF LAHEJ

About sixteen miles north of Aden lies the district of Lahej, inhabited by the Abdali tribe. A glimpse into the criminal jail provides a gruesome enough picture. The majority of the prisoners wear iron anklets; those accused of murder must carry in addition heavy iron weights attached to an iron collar. The door in the centre gives access to the condemned cell. The bullet holes in the walls, at the height of a man's head, tell their own story



JEWISH SWEETMEAT SELLER IN LAHEJ BAZAAR

He is a petty trader, and sits outside his mud-clad home uttering intermittently his trade-call to attract attention to his merchandise. He sells scents, honey, and various sweetmeats, and the youth of the neighbourhood know him well, and are ever anxious to pursue their games in his vicinity.

A sweet morsel may come their way gratis, but his Jewish instincts forbid overmuch generosity

Arab labourers come from across the ex-Turkish frontier. They work as carriers of goods at the Maala Wharf and in the coffee and hides warehouses in the Crater. The wealthiest merchants of Aden come from the Hadhramaut. There is a large and growing traffic by dhows up the Red Sea, to both the African and Arabian littorals; away to the Somali ports, and, skirting the Hadhramaut littoral, to Shukra, Bir Ali Balhaf, Makalla, Sur, and Socotra. The salt pans of Khor Maksar employ numerous hands. In the Tawahi, or "Crescent," are Greeks and Hebrews employed in the cigarette industry. Jews also deal in ostrich plumes.

Among the disadvantages of Aden are its isolation since 1907, and the almost complete lack of greenery till you reach Sheikh Othman, while the knowledge that you cannot escape from the ever-present rock palls on you. There is, however, no lack of amusement—polo, cricket, football, hockey, stické,

and "gymkhanas" add a zest to life. The water drunk is sea-water condensed, but this is a blessing in disguise, as tending to minimise the chances of contracting water-borne diseases. Electric light is being tardily introduced, and this, with fans, will convert Aden into a comparative health resort.

There are, however, no good hotels, no public reading-rooms, no libraries. The roads are indifferent, the distances are long, though of recent years taxicabs have multiplied. The coal-dust, blown during the north-east monsoon, renders it difficult to keep the houses clean. On the other hand Aden is near home, and is a port of call for many liners. You see your friends weekly from India, Britain, and Australia, and the harbour is constantly visited by British and foreign warships.

Sixteen miles north of Aden is the straggling and ill-kempt town of Lahej. From an ancestor of these Sultans of the Abdali tribesmen Aden was captured



PIPERS OF LAHEJ EXECUTING A SERENADE

The glorified "penny-whistle" on the right can produce only three notes, and the holes are barely within reach. But the player would be perfectly happy to keep up the performance for several hours, unless forcibly stopped

in 1839. They are our best friends. By reason of proximity to Aden, the people are more "civilized" than others. Lahej is termed the "Gate of Aden," and for many years the influence of this house of "Al Mohsin" has furthered our more intimate acquaintance with the tribes within. Lahej is well watered by canals from the River Tiban, and the fertility of the soil ensures good gardens, healthy crops, vegetables, and fruits. Lahej, with attention, might become the garden of Aden. The palaces of royalty stand out in contrast with

the generally dilapidated appearance of the smaller houses of sun-baked mud. Mosquitoes and sand-flies abound. The tribesmen are less warlike than others, and the Pax Britannica gives them free scope to engage in husbandry and the breeding of camels. Other Arabs mockingly term them "eaters of sprats," for, unlike the ordinary inland Arab, they are fond of sun-dried fish, brought on camel-back from Aden. Many of the tribesmen ply camels to bring in daily supplies to the Aden market. The country, usually quiet, is at times raided by the surrounding and turbulent Subehi tribesmen, who own no allegiance, and live by petty pilfering on the trade routes.

British connexion with the island of Socotra, 500 miles from Aden, dates from 1834. It is under the ken of the Resident of Aden, and its ruler comes from Kishn, on the opposite Arabian littoral. The modern capital is Tamarida, on the northern side. The name was probably given

by Portuguese mariners. The Socotrans call it Hadibo. The old capital Shik still exists in ruins two miles to the east. The mountain range of Hajir will repay a visit. The old-world export trade of the dragon's blood tree and of aloes is well-nigh extinct.

The coast folk live by fishing, while the mountaineers are herdsman. The two races are distinct. The dialect is akin to old Mahri, and is Himyaritic in origin. Tradition says that Alexander the Great planted a Greek colony here, and the women of the eastern heights

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are said to be so beautiful that one cannot look on them. On this Eastern point many a ship has been wrecked in the south-west monsoon.

Kalansia lies to the west of the island, a small village with a group of mosques. Traces of Christian worship are found in Socotra. Till quite recently trade by barter prevailed, and money was discounted. Hadibo is very entrancing, with its lagoon and palm-groves, cleanly village, and bubbling cascades from the hills. The people are docile and shy. The hill folk are fair complexioned. Socotra is famous for a breed of donkey and for milch cows.

About 750 miles to the north-east of Aden, to which it is attached politically,

lies the group of the five Kuria Muria Islands ceded to Britain by the Sultan of Muskat for the purpose of landing the Red Sea cable. Mention may also here be made conveniently of the group of Bahrein Islands in the Persian Gulf, lying twenty miles off the east coast of El Hasa, Arabia, and ruled by a native sheikh under British protection.

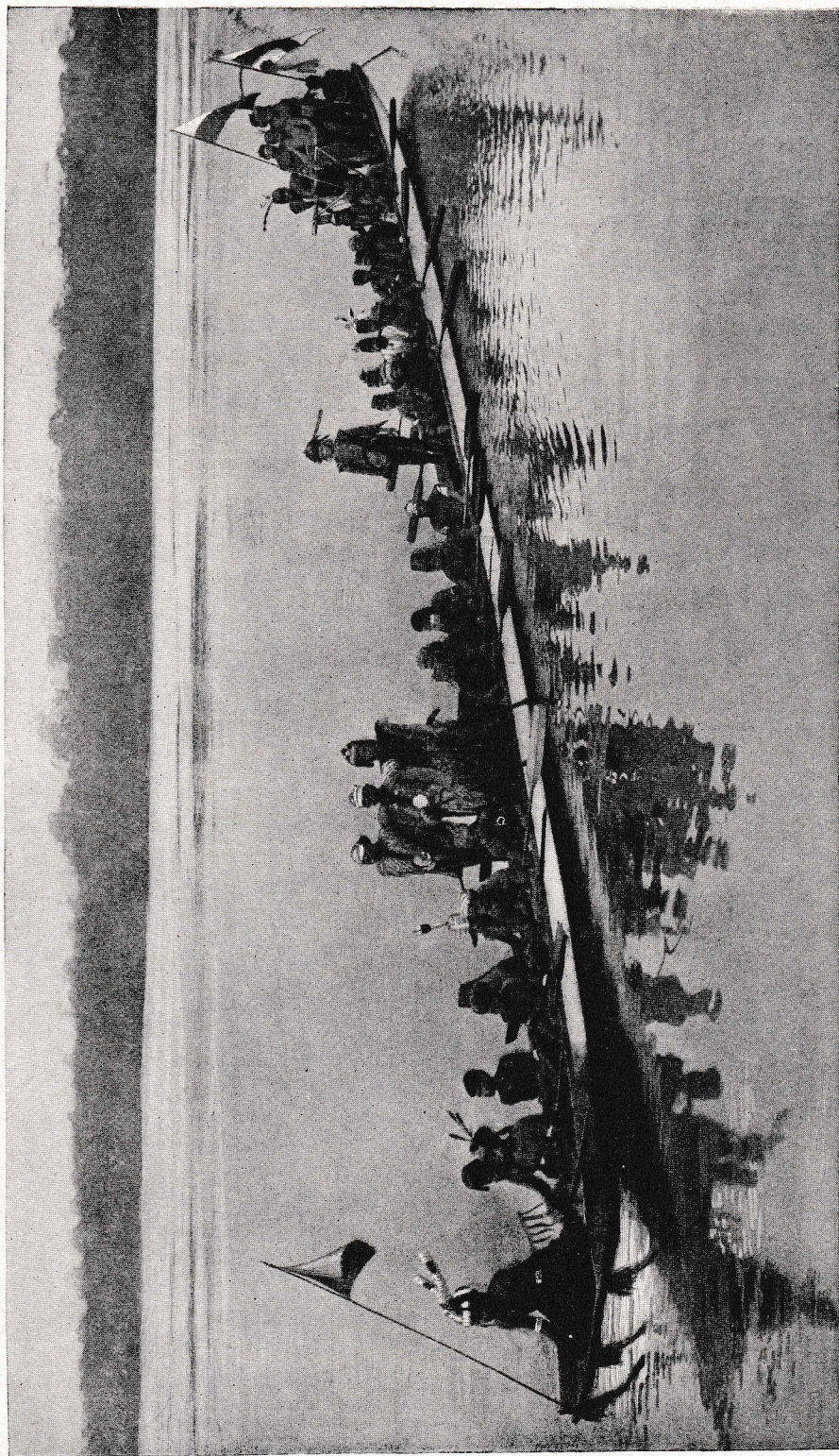
Of these, Bahrein, Sitra, Nabi Saleh, and Jezeyra contain a population of about 100,000 Persians and Arabs, chiefly engaged in the pearl fishery. The islands contain an immense number of burial mounds, with masonry sepulchres in which relics pointing to a probably Phœnician origin have been found.



ONE OF THE MAIN STREETS OF LAHEJ IN THE ADEN PROTECTORATE

No attention is paid to architectural style in the construction of the houses, which consist merely of four walls and a roof, and are built either of mud-bricks or wattle plastered over with mud. One crack is sufficient to render a house unpleasantly leaky in the rainy season. The spouts protruding from the walls are to deal with the various systems of domestic drainage

Photographs of Aden and Lahej are by J. L. Dixon



OFF TO THE WEDDING: A DAYAK CHIEF ESCORTING HIS DAUGHTER TO HER NUPTIALS IN HIS WAR CANOE

Dayak war boats are about ninety feet long and are dug out of the trunk of a single tree. Planks, or gunwales, are lashed on the sides, and the seams are caulked to make the boat water-tight. Drawing very little water and very easily handled, these boats are propelled at considerable speed by paddles about five feet in length, and steered by a longer and broader paddle. A large war boat carries about a hundred men

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II. The Jungle Folk of British Borneo

By Charles Hose, D.Sc.

Author of "The Pagan Tribes of Borneo"

With fifty-one photographs by the Author

THE prevalent idea of Borneo is that it is still a land of "wild men"—the head-hunting Dayaks—a country undesirable as a residence and incapable of development. It is necessary, therefore, in a short account of the British part of the island and its peoples, based upon close observation and study during many years' sojourn in this most interesting and attractive country, to say a few words to dispel that erroneous impression.

The whole country is a storehouse of Nature's treasures; the people, more or less "white folk," are well-formed and intelligent, and while they go about untrammelled by superfluous garments, show proper and due regard to modesty, and, withal, the garments are in themselves picturesque. Borneo has until recent years been comparatively neglected by the pioneers of industry and enterprise.

The wise rule of Britain in Brunei,

British North Borneo, and that of the independent State of Sarawak, with its British Raja, have made it a desirable place for commercial develop-

ment, while the rights and well-being of the natives have been protected and fostered, securing to the inhabitants the maximum advantage of civilization with few of its disadvantages.

Borneo is the third largest island in the world. Its area is roughly 290,000 square miles, or about five times that of England and Wales. Its greatest length is 850 miles, and its greatest breadth about 600 miles. Crossed by the Equator near its centre, it is situated in the East Indian Archipelago, bounded on the north and west by the South China Sea, on the south by the Java Sea, and on the east by the Strait of Macassar and Celebes Sea.

The island is mountainous, and there is a central group of mountains from which other ranges radiate. Although

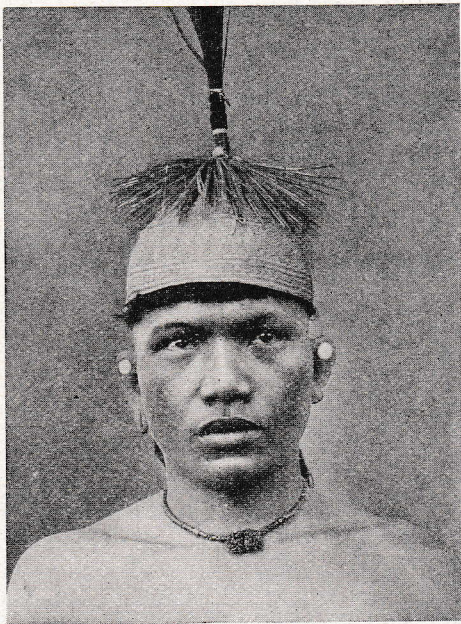


PRETTY SHELL EMBROIDERY

Sea Dayak women show great skill and taste in the designs which they trace in shells upon their short cotton skirts and long-bodied sleeved jackets

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surrounded on all sides by islands of volcanic origin, Borneo differs from them in presenting but small traces of volcanic activity, which may account for the fact that Borneo is comparatively less fertile than the surrounding islands. But the northern portion is distinguished by isolated groups, of which the highest



KLEMANTAN OF BARAM DISTRICT

Fine, well-built people of high intelligence and sociable disposition, the Klemantans are skilful in handicrafts, most dexterous boatmen, and devoted to hunting

peak is Mount Kinabalu in British North Borneo, 13,593 feet. The northern coast lends itself more than any other part of the island to good and natural harbourage; the whole country is well watered by many navigable rivers of considerable size.

The small State of Brunei with its pile-built town of the same name is the old Malay capital of Borneo. It has a population of about 20,000, consisting chiefly of a few Klemantan tribes, known as Kadayans, Orang Bukits, Bisayas, and Malays. The Brunei people are clever brass workers.

The fauna of Borneo is large and varied, including two anthropoid apes—the orang-utan and gibbon—several species of monkeys, lemurs, rhinoceros,

wild cattle, deer, pig, bears, otters, cats, porcupines, squirrels, bats, rats, tree shrews, and the toothless scaly anteater. In British North Borneo herds of a small species of elephant are occasionally met with. The crocodile infests every river, and various species of tortoise, turtle, lizard, frog, and snake abound. Fish are very plentiful, and the whole forest teems with bird and insect life.

The land adjoining the coast consists of a low-lying swampy belt of the alluvium brought down by the rivers from the central highlands. Between the swampy coast belt and the mountains a zone of very irregular hill country intervenes, with an average height above the sea-level of about 1,000 feet. The climate is warm, moist, and very



PURE-BRED KENYAH OF BORNEO

This is Tama Bulan Wang, the Kenyah Penghulu of the Baram district, a man of real greatness as a leader of his people

equable. The whole country is heavily timbered, with many valuable trees of both hard and soft wood, suitable for any purpose. There is a wealth of ferns, beautiful orchids, and numerous curious plants.

The scenery is magnificent, and in every direction may be seen panoramas of the most luxuriant vegetation. At



BORNEO: YOUNG IBAN GRACE IN FESTAL ARRAY

Scarlet and gold, ivory and shell, silver and brass are employed with consummate artistry in the gala dress of the Sea Dayaks or Ibans. The costume well displays the beautiful lines of their figures

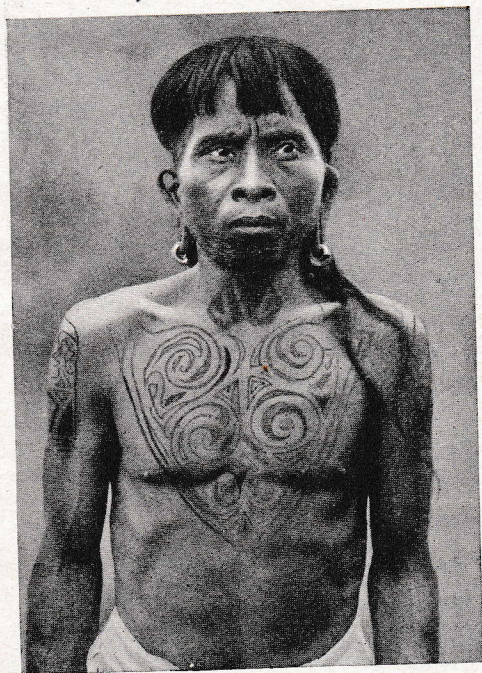
Photograph by Dr. Charles Hose



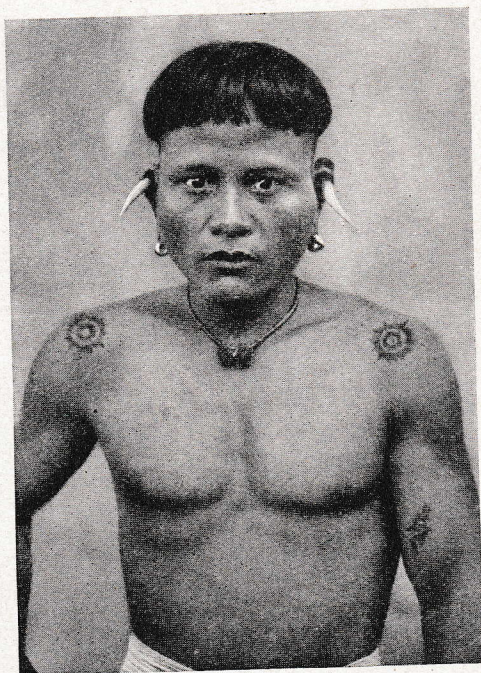
Sea Dayaks tattoo stars and rosettes on the breast and shoulders, and wear rings in the lobes and studs in the shells of their ears, and a hook design on the throat



Instead of wearing ear-rings, Orang Bukit (Klemantan) women drive a wooden plug through the lobes of their ears and cap it with a boss of silver filigree



Ukits of the Rejang tattoo extensively. A bold hook pattern covers the chest, and a pattern known as the lizard adorns the sides of the shoulders. They wear brass earrings



Every Kayan perforates the shell of his ears, and after he has been on the warpath and taken heads with his own hands, he thrusts through each the upper canine tooth of a tiger cat

EAR ORNAMENTS AND TATTOO MARKS OF PAGAN TRIBES OF BORNEO



PARLEMENTAIRES WHOSE PACIFIC INTENT IS BELIED BY THEIR FEROCIOUS Demeanour

When a tribe wishes to renew friendly relations with another its chief, attended by an armed bodyguard, presents himself before the erstwhile hostile village, and messages respecting the quarrel are exchanged. If affairs are sufficiently arranged for a meeting to take place the visiting party is admitted into the house, the blood of a fowl is smeared on the wrist of each, cigarettes are produced, and the two chiefs begin negotiations



CHILDREN OF MOUNTAIN AND FOREST WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RULE OF THE RAJA OF SARAWAK

Most of the interior tribes of Sarawak, such as Kayans, Klemantans, Kenyahs, and Punans, are represented in this group, the exceptions being the Dayaks, Muruts, and coast peoples. The picture shows the uniformity of male attire among the pagan tribes, the essential universal article being the waistcloth of cotton, or, in the remoter regions, of bark cloth. The tribes are chiefly differentiated by tattoo marks and ear ornaments



MEN WHO LIVE AS MANKIND LIVED TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO

Punans, people of Malayan blood, live in the jungle-covered lands of Central Borneo. Well-built and vigorous, but shy and inoffensive, they are ignorant of agriculture, and move about in groups of twenty to thirty persons from one temporary shelter to another, finding their subsistence in the forest, and bartering its produce with other tribes for tobacco and salt.

the higher altitudes the dense undergrowth gives way to an extraordinary and rank growth of moss which covers every form of vegetation. So rapid is plant growth that artificially cleared spaces are again overgrown within a few months. The network of rivers and their tributaries affords valuable means of transport throughout the country.

The native population of Borneo, which numbers about 3,000,000—if Chinese, Indian, and other immigrants are excluded—falls naturally into two

great classes: those who have accepted the Mahomedan religion and civilization, and pagans. With the exception of the Malays of the coastal regions, all the natives live under tribal organization. Some writers class these tribes together indiscriminately under the name Dyak, or Dayak, though many groups may be clearly distinguished by differences of culture, belief, custom, and physical and mental peculiarities.

The chief groups are: (1) Sea Dayaks, also known as Ibans; (2) Kayans;



BEADED AND TATTOOED BEAUTIES OF THE KALABIT TRIBE

All Kalabit women are tattooed when they reach the age of sixteen. Bold zigzag bands are traced on the forearm, not completely encircling the limb, and strikingly decorative geometrical designs are tattooed on the thigh, the shin, and sometimes on the knee-cap. They wear strings of large blue beads around the waist and wrist, and necklaces of smaller beads

(3) Kenyahs; (4) Klemantans; (5) Muruts; and (6) Punans. Of these peoples the Sea Dayak is best known to Europeans, largely owing to his restless, truculent disposition. He is of a well-marked and fairly uniform physical type. His skin is distinctly darker than that of the others. His figure is well proportioned, neat, and generally somewhat boyish. His expression is bright and mobile, his lips and teeth are often distorted and discoloured by the constant chewing of betel nut. He is cheerful, sociable,

energetic, industrious, and fond of fun. The good qualities enumerated above render the Ibans agreeable companions, but there is another side to the picture. They have little respect for their chiefs, with the result that their social organization is defective and chaotic; they are somewhat quarrelsome and litigious, and the most inveterate head-hunters of the country.

The Kayans are widely distributed throughout Central Borneo, in large villages situated on the middle reaches

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of the principal rivers, with the exception of those that run to the northern coast in the State of British North Borneo. They are a warlike people, but less truculent than the Sea Dayaks; staid, conservative, and religious, they do not wantonly enter into quarrels. They are industrious and, though somewhat slow and heavy both in mind and body, are more skilled in the handicrafts than any of the other peoples.

The Kenyahs predominate in the highlands a little north of the centre of Borneo, where the largest rivers have their sources, but are found also in

widely scattered villages. Physically, they are the finest people of the country. Their skin-colour is decidedly fairer than others. Of medium stature, with long backs and short, muscular, well-rounded limbs, they are courageous, intelligent, energetic, excitable, very hospitable, and somewhat improvident.

The Muruts and Kalabits are confined to the northern part of Borneo, and with many closely allied tribes, such as Dusuns, Tagals, and others, form the bulk of the population of the State of British North Borneo and the northern part of Sarawak. Tall and strongly



KAYAN WOMEN RESTING FROM WORK IN THEIR RICE FIELD

In Borneo both sexes share in the work of the paddy fields. At planting-time the men make the holes in the ground, into which the women drop the seed. While the crop is growing the women hoe over each patch at least twice to prevent weeds from choking the rice plants, and men and women reap the crop together, the children helping by scaring off the rice-sparrows



MERRY-MAKING AT HARVEST HOME: KLEMANTAN WOMEN DRESSED AS MEN
Boisterous fun attends the completion of the rice harvest in Borneo, and the harvest festival is the annual carnival, at which dancing is most practised. After a feast on rice and pork, solo and group dancing is indulged in, both sexes taking part, and the women often dressing up as men for the occasion. After an exceptionally good harvest the rejoicing may last two days



VILLAGE SMITHY IN NORTH-EASTERN SARAWAK

Kalabit blacksmiths forge implements from smelted metal by the aid of a charcoal furnace, to which the blast is supplied by piston bellows, seen in part on the left of this photo, and complete in the photo below. Stone hammers and anvils are still in common use in the interior of the country. The Kalabits and other tribesmen are clever and artistic workers in steel and other metals



BELLOWS FROM PALM STEMS

For bellows the Kalabit smith fashions a couple of cylinders from palm stems, and, perched on a platform, drives the air through them with pistons made of tufts of feathers tied to sticks

built, their skin is generally more ruddy in colour. Their agriculture is superior to that of the other peoples, but they are addicted to much drinking of rice-spirit. It is remarkable that the women of the Kalabit tribe make proposals of marriage to the men.

Under the name Klemantan are grouped together a large number of tribes which, though closely allied, are widely scattered in all parts of Borneo, and present considerable diversities of language and custom.

The Punan, again, presents a well-marked type. His skin is fairer than the Kenyah's, and is often of a slight greenish tint. He is well-proportioned, graceful, and muscular. His expression is somewhat melancholy, strikingly wary and timid. In spite of his nomadic life, he generally appears well nourished and clean. With the Ukits they are the most primitive of all the tribes, and therefore ethnologically the most



DAYAK YOUTHS ENGROSSSED IN A COCKING-MAIN

Cock-fighting, a popular pastime in all Eastern countries from time immemorial, is a favourite amusement of the Dayaks, and is an almost indispensable part of every social and religious feast. The birds, carefully bred and trained, are heeled with sharp steel spurs, and fight savagely



AT GRIPS: HOW KAYAN WRESTLERS TAKE THE HOLD

Wrestling is the most popular sport with the older boys and men of the Kayan tribe, and is regarded as training for the chase and war. Each grips his antagonist's waistcloth at its lower edge behind, and strives to lay him on his back



TRADITIONAL ENEMIES ASSEMBLED IN PEACE CONFERENCE AT CLAUDETOWN

To put an end to the continuous warfare between the tribes of East and West Borneo, Dr. Charles Hose, in 1898, arranged a general peace-meeting at Claudetown, at which some twenty thousand natives were present. The assembly met in a great hall built for the occasion, and roofed with palm mats. After much speech-making, toasting, and singing, mutual amity was sworn and has endured ever since

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interesting. The Punan's dwelling is a mere shelter of sticks and leaves, built in the dense forest wherever he can obtain the necessary supply of food from jungle fruits and whatever he can secure by hunting.

The Sea Dayak woman wears garments of homespun cotton thread woven in patterns of several colours, and an extraordinary corset consisting of many brass rings on rattan canes,

some forty or fifty families and even more, with a gallery the whole length of the house; in fact, it constitutes a village. The house is built parallel to the course of the river. The members of a village are bound together, not merely by the common bonds of kinship and allegiance to one chief, but also by more subtle ties, of which the most important is their sharing in the protection and warning afforded to the



KAYANS SPLITTING RATTANS FOR HOUSES, MATS, AND WEAPONS

Of all the jungle plants of Borneo the rattan and bamboo are the most valuable to the natives, who employ them in more than half their crafts, and make of them most of their more important material possessions—houses, mats and caps, weapons (offensive and defensive), and implements

built up one above another to enclose the body from the thigh to the breasts. This is worn almost continuously, and rarely removed.

The principal garment of the women of all the other peoples is a skirt of cotton cloth. When working in the fields or travelling in boats, both men and women wear a long-sleeved jacket of white cotton, with a large mushroom-shaped hat, which serves chiefly as a protection against the rays of the sun.

All the tribes, except the Punans and Ukits, build houses of a special type; each house is built to accommodate

whole house by the omen-birds, or by the higher powers served by these.

All the peoples of Borneo, the Punans excepted, cultivate rice, which is the principal food stuff, and forms the bulk of every meal.

Before the preparation of the land can be begun, it is necessary to compute the time of the year, and to secure good omens, which is effected by an instrument resembling the Greek gnomon. During the growth of the rice various charms and superstitious practices are brought into use to promote its growth and keep away the pests. The



DAYAK BELLE ENCASED IN BRASS AND SILVER

She wears a comb of silver filigree and tinsel, silver-gilt bells for ear-rings and necklets, and silver bracelets. Her corset is made of rattan hoops, completely covered with brass rings and decorated with silver coins and filigree

preparation of the land consists in the felling of the timber, clearing the undergrowth, and in burning it later as completely as possible, so that the ashes enrich the soil. The fallen timber lies some weeks to dry. Choosing a windy day they set fire to it, and as soon as the ashes are cool seed sowing begins. Men and women work together; the men go in front making shallow holes with wooden dibbles, the women follow dropping in the rice seed. The harvest is ripe in some fourteen

to twenty weeks after sowing, and harvesting is the most important event of the year in which all take part. When the whole crop has been gathered, it is transported amid much rejoicing and merry-making to the rice barns adjoining the house, and the harvest festival, which is in fact the annual carnival, begins.

The festival starts with the preparation of the seed grain for the following season. Sufficient of the best of the new grain is carefully selected by the women of each room for the sowing of the next season. This is mixed with a small quantity of the grain of the foregoing seasons, which has been carefully preserved for this purpose.

While mixing the old with the new grain, the women call on the soul of the rice to cause the seed to be fruitful and to grow vigorously, and to favour their own fertility, for the whole festival is a celebration or cult of the principle of fertility and vitality of the woman no less than that of the rice grain.

These preparations having been completed, there begins a scene of boisterous fun. The women make pads of the boiled sticky new rice, and cover it with soot from their cooking vessels. With these they approach the men, and dab the pads upon their faces and bodies, leaving sooty marks that are not easily removed. The men thus challenged give chase, and attempt to get possession of the rice pads and to return the compliment.

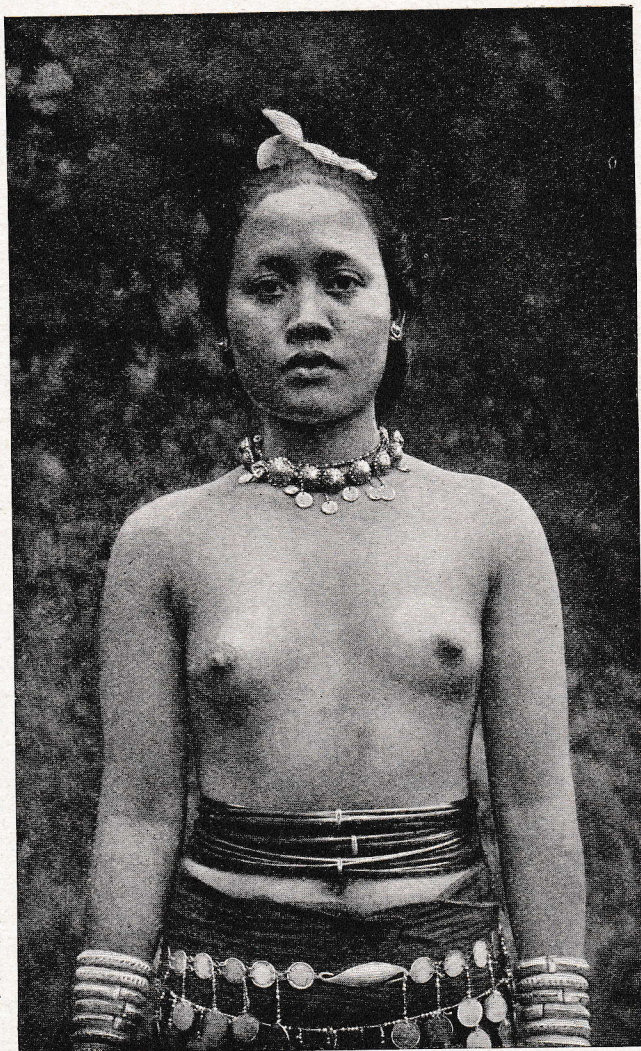
The daily life of all the peoples of Borneo who live in the long houses that

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constitute the villages presents characteristics fairly common to them all. Before the first streaks of daylight appear, the women light the fires in the private rooms and descend to the river, bathe, and fill bamboo water vessels. Returning to the house with their loads of water, they boil the rice for the household breakfasts. About the same time the men bestir themselves sluggishly; some bathe, while others smoke the unfinished ends of the cigarettes of the previous night.

During some three or four months of the year all able-bodied persons repair daily to the rice fields. Old people and invalids remain in the house, doing carving or other light work, while keeping an eye on the children who play in and out and about the house. A few of the able-bodied men employ themselves making boats, forging swords, spearheads, iron hoes, and axes, repairing weapons or implements. At other times small parties go to the jungle to hunt deer and pig, gather jungle produce, or spend the day in fishing.

Except in the busy farming season, the work of the women is wholly within the house. The heaviest part of their household duty is the preparation of the rice. About midday, as soon as dinner is over, the pounding of the rice begins. The winnowing and sifting are often done by old women, while the younger women continue the severer task of plying the pestle. This work completed, supper is prepared with the rice and whatever food the men have brought home from the jungle.



HINTS OF DEPARTING YOUTH

As age creeps on, Sea Dayak women give up their brass corsets, except on festal occasions, retaining only a few rattan waist hoops and trinkets that do not interfere with house work

By the time the tropical night has fallen, the house is lit by the fires and resin torches. The men gather round the fireplaces in the gallery, discuss the events of the day, the state of the crops, relate myths, folk-tales, and animal stories. About nine o'clock all retire to bed, save a few old men who sit smoking over the fires far into the night.

Now the rushing of the river makes itself heard in the house, mingled with the chirping of innumerable insects and

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the croaking of a myriad of frogs borne in from the surrounding forest. The villagers sleep soundly, but the European guest, if unused to sleeping in Bornean long houses, is apt to be wakened from time to time by an outburst of dreadful yelpings from the dogs squabbling for the best places among the ashes, or by some weird cry from the depths of the forest. In the old unsettled days the peace of the night was occasionally broken about an hour before the dawn by the yells of an attacking force, or by

flames roaring up from beneath the house. Alcoholic intoxication is uncommon. At great feasts, such as take place at the close of the harvest, or on the return of a successful war-party, much rice-spirit is drunk, by women as well as men; a few of the men usually become quite drunk, but most of them hardly go further than a state of boisterous jollity. Although in years of good rice harvest each family renews its supply, yet the spirit is never drunk in private, but only on festive occasions, or when a man entertains a small party of friends in his own chamber.

A display of warlike feeling is given in the war-dance, which is executed by one or two warriors only. Men in full panoply of war, brandishing a sword and shield, go through movements of a single combat with many fanciful exaggerations.

When a youth begins to feel strongly the attraction of the other sex, he finds opportunities of paying visits in friendly houses. It is then said in his own house that he has gone "to seek tobacco," a phrase which is well understood to mean that he has gone to seek female companionship.

Girls wear many heavy rings in the lobes of their ears, which gradually yield to the weight and begin to assume the desired character of slender loops. Some of the girls learn to execute a solo dance, which consists largely in slow, graceful movements of the arms and hands.

Deliberate lying is a thing to be ashamed of, and a man who gets himself a reputation as a liar is regarded with small favour. Among the Ibans, if a man has deceived his people in a serious matter by means of a malicious lie, and it is discovered, one of the deceived party takes a stick or bough and throws it down at some spot near which people are constantly passing, saying in the presence of others: "Let anyone who does not add to this liar's heap suffer from pains in the head." The others do likewise, and as the nature of the growing heap becomes known, every passer-by throws a stick upon it, lest he should suffer pain. Jungle tracks



A KAJAMAN LADY OF QUALITY

Clean in her dress and person, her social status is indicated by the length of the lobe of her ears, in the elongation of which great care is taken

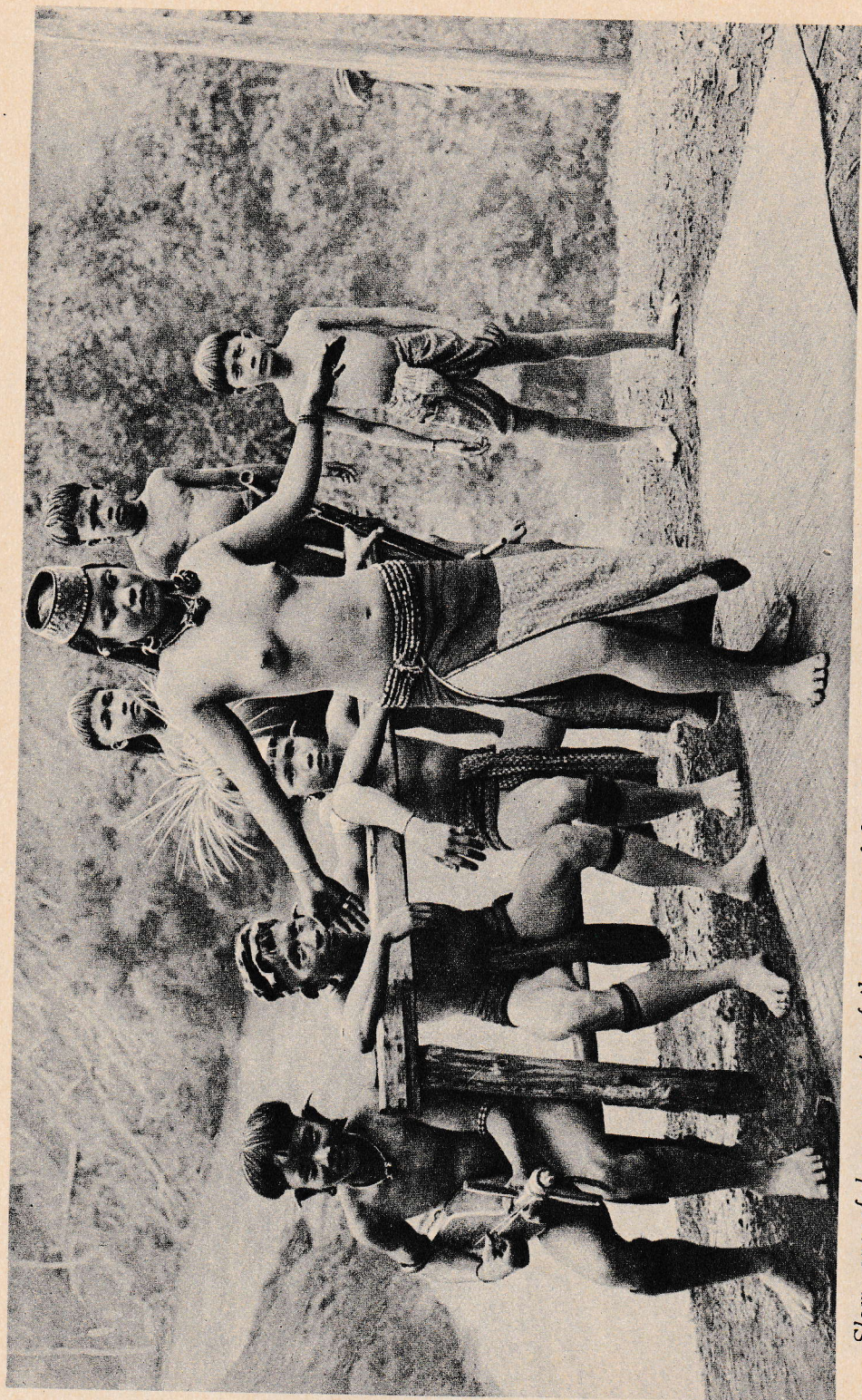
PEEPS AT BORNEO

Forest Craft & Native Culture



His tiger-cat war coat proclaims the prowess of this Klemantan chief. Armed and alert, he peers through the jungle for any lurking foe

Photographs by Dr. Charles Hose



Slow, graceful movements of the arms and hands are the feature of this Kenyah girl's solo dance. A merry little comrade supplies the music of his sapeh, a kind of wooden banyo with two rattan strings



Very different is this Iban dance. The women used to urge their menfolk to the horrid pastime of head-hunting, and even now dance with the gruesome trophies which were brought home from expeditions of the past



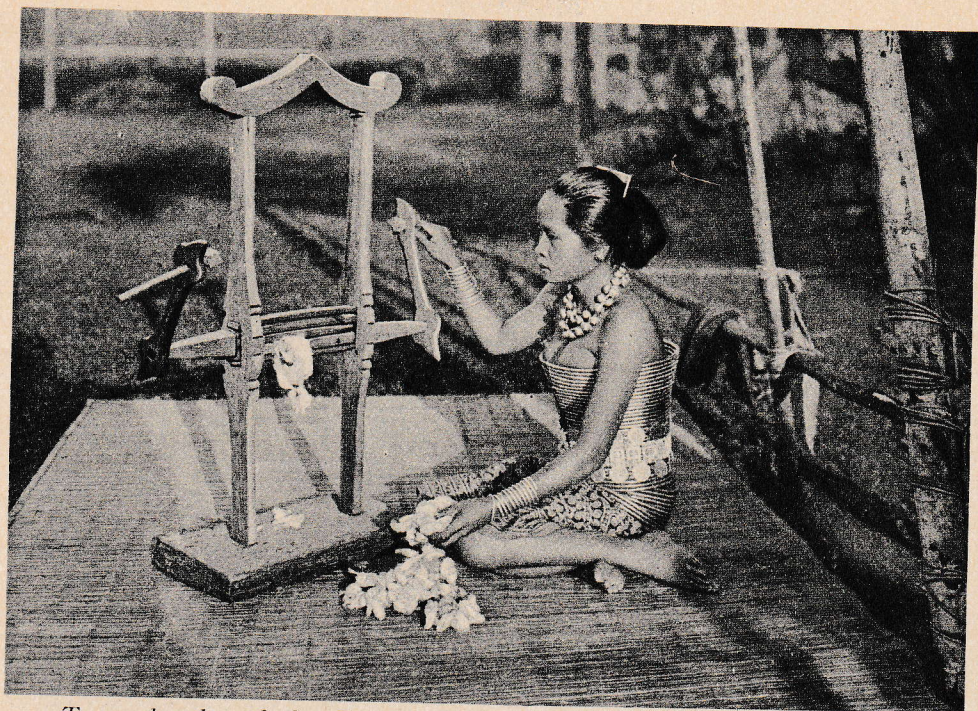
Papa, mamma, and the baby. A pleasing picture of the formidable Sea Dayaks in the peaceful atmosphere of conjugal felicity



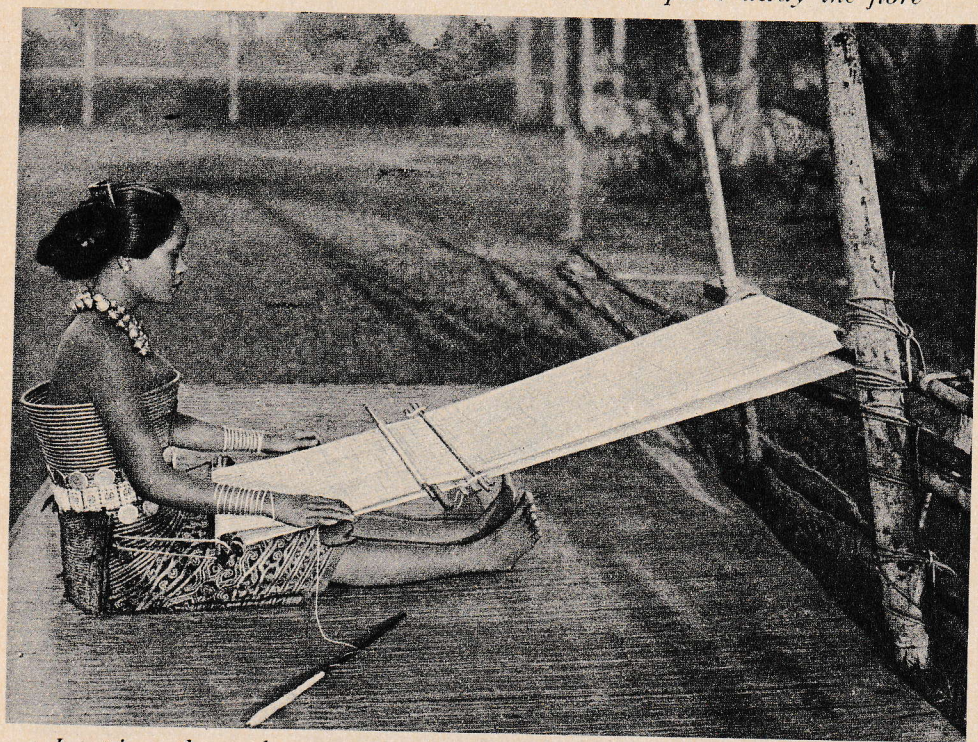
Cheerfulness and shy timidity characterise these Lisum women of Central Borneo. The bangles they are wearing are made of real ivory



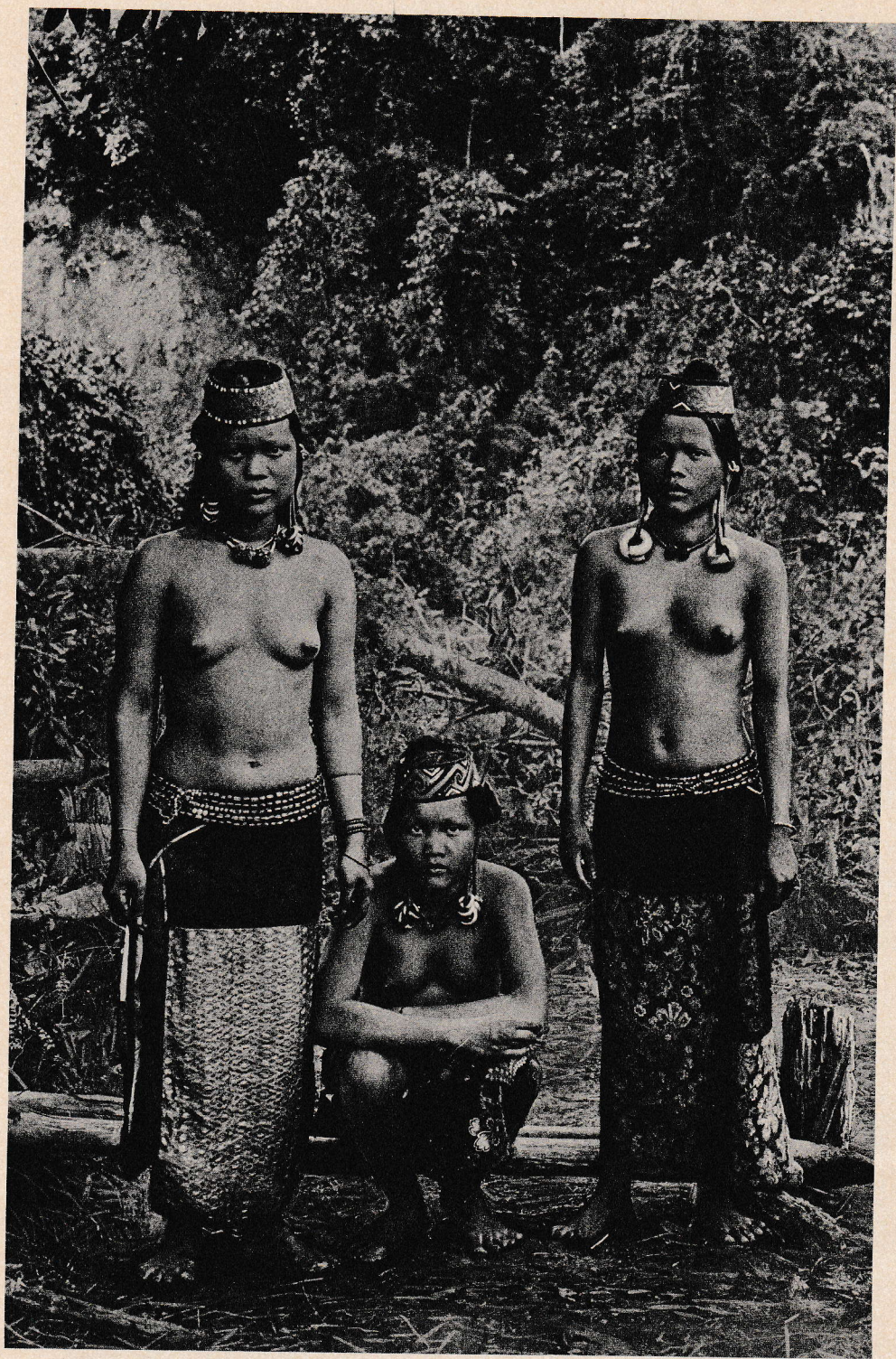
A ring-fenced garden of girls in the flower of youth. They are Sea Dayaks from the Rejang district of Sarawak, and immensely proud of their rattan corsets gleaming with brass rings and filigree adornments



To make thread the Iban woman puts a mass of cotton fibre in a mangle, which extracts the seeds while she pulls away the fibre



Looping the web over crossbars the weaver, sitting on the floor, keeps it taut by a loop round her waist and plies the shuttle by hand



Kenyah women spend happy weeks in huts upon their farms, weeding the rice fields and living on green corn, early pumpkins, and fruit



Dandy Iban warriors deck the sheaths of their swords with human hair, wear ivory armbands, and fibre wristlets once used as currency



Borneo blowpipes are marvels of craftsmanship. First the Kayan shapes a roughly cylindrical eight-foot length of hard jagang wood



Next, standing on a platform, he bores it by vertical blows with an iron rod, a mate ladling water into the hole to float out the chips



Slight curvature is given to the pipe so that only a half-circle of light is visible on sighting through the bore, which is next polished



On to the shaft of a dart nine inches long he then fits a tapering cylinder of tough pith, the butt end of which exactly fills the bore



Poison for the dart is furnished by the ipoh tree. The native incises the bark and collects the milky sap that exudes in a bamboo cup



Heated over a fire, the sap becomes a thick, dark paste. This is worked thinner with a spatula and then applied to the tip of the dart



Accurate, light, and noiseless, the blowpipe is particularly effective in dense jungle. Here are two Kenyah crack shots out after monkeys



Home from the kill. Obviously well pleased with himself, a Kenyah hunter brings home a young porker just shot with his blowpipe

are the usual means of communication between the villages, which cannot be reached by river. Where a route crosses a swamp, large trees are felled in such a way that they lie as nearly as possible end to end. In this way a rude, slippery viaduct is formed on which an agile and bare-footed native can walk in safety across swamps miles in extent.

The natural products of Borneo are very varied, and many of them occur in profusion. Large numbers of fish are caught and form an important part of the diet of the peoples. The Kenyahs fish with an ingenious hook made with a rattan thorn. Varieties of gutta-percha are obtained in the forest from trees of more than a score of species. Camphor is formed in the crevices of the stems of trees of the genus *Dryobalanops*. The tree is cut down, the stem split up, and the crystals shaken out. Wild sago is abundant, and is much used for food by Punans, and occasionally by the other peoples when their supply of rice is short. Edible nests of a species of swift, which builds in caves, are collected by the natives and sold to the Chinese in considerable quantities.

Warfare was in the old days almost the principal industry of the natives, but under the control and civilizing influences of the West, the avenging of injuries and the necessity for possessing heads for use in the funeral rites are now the principal



PROUD OF HIS ESCUTCHEON

Kenyah shields generally bear in front conventional designs of the human face picked out in red and black. They are often adorned and framed with tufts of human hair taken from the heads of slain enemies

grounds of warfare. An old dried head, however, will serve all the purposes of the rites that terminate a period of tribal or village mourning, and peace has reigned for more than fifteen years



DIVINATION FROM THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS IN BORNEO

Omen birds occupy a special place in the Pagan religion of Borneo. The carrion hawk is consulted before the sowing and the harvesting of the rice crop. An image of it surmounts a pole at the corner of a raised open building, whence watchers view the hawks as they come within the area of sky marked off for each observer



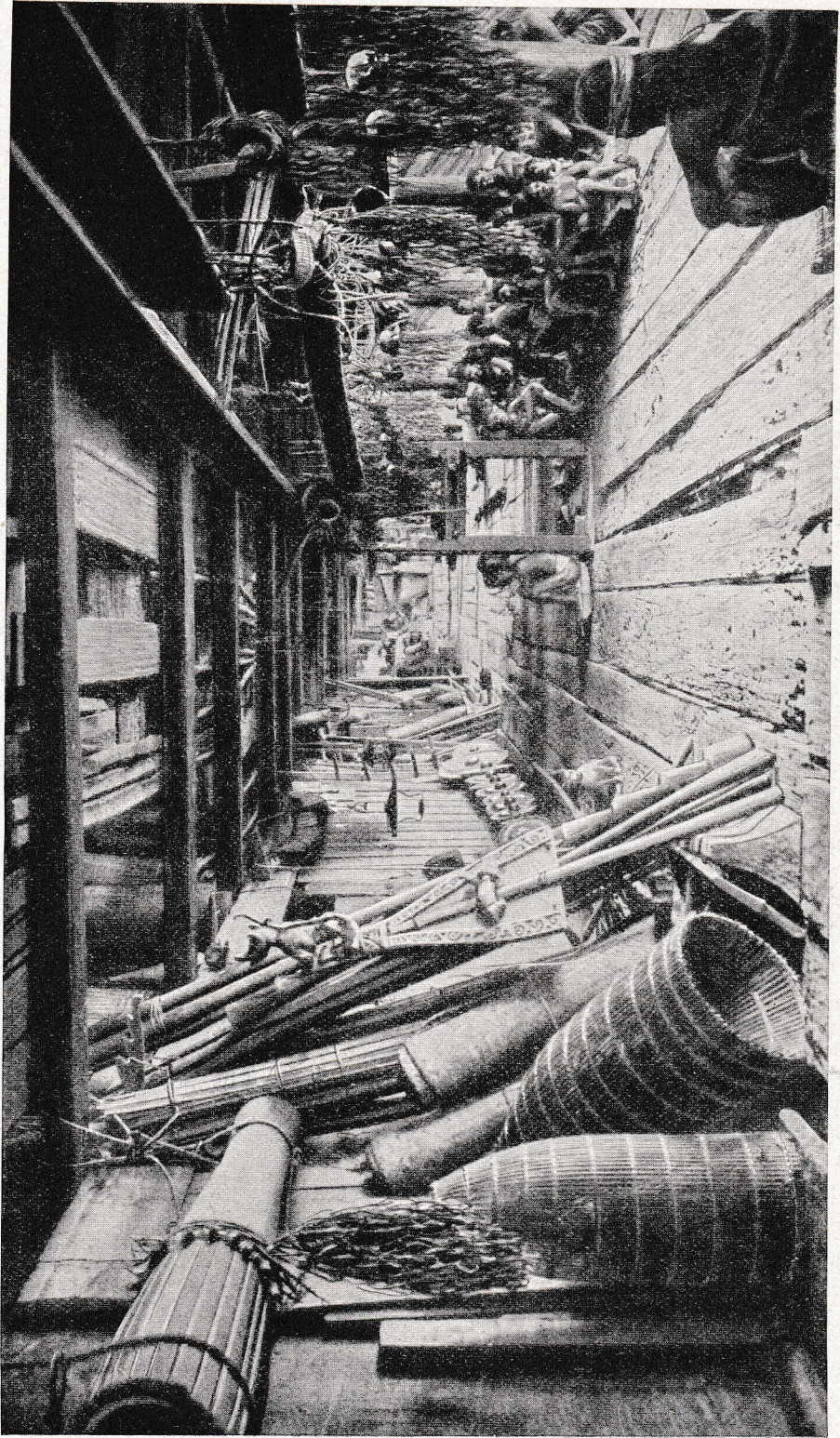
WOE TO THE VANQUISHED! THE VICTORS' DANCE OF TRIUMPH

This Kayan woman is dancing with a recently-taken enemy's head. The hair has been removed to adorn the shield and sword-handle of the warrior who killed the man, and now stands proudly before his rejoicing mate. It is customary for the victorious warriors to spend the first night after their return encamped before the house, when the women dance with the freshly-captured heads, and the whole village rejoices

between the tribes of Sarawak and Dutch Borneo. When it is undertaken, war is generally carried out very deliberately after much preparation and in large, well-organized parties.

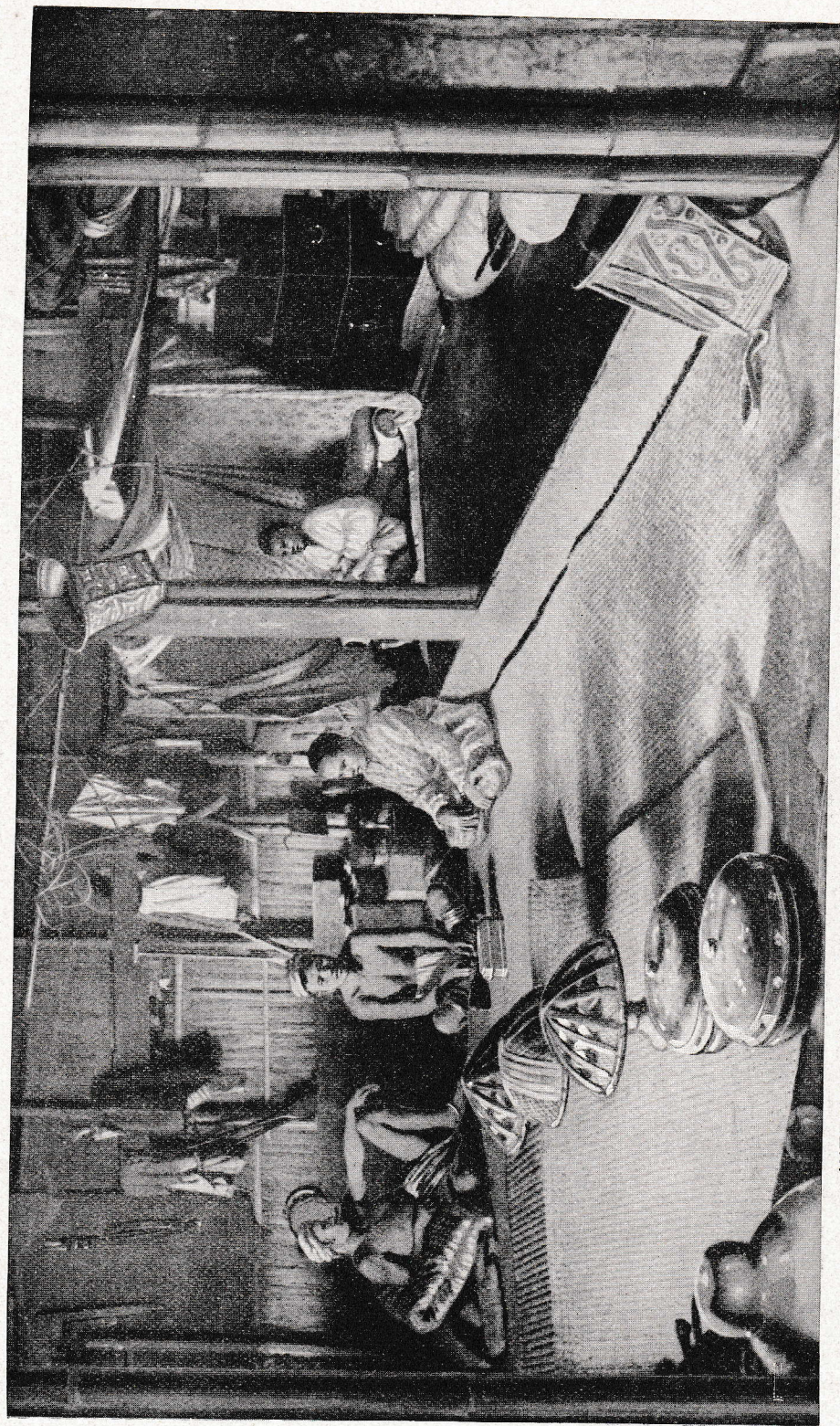
The weapons of war are the sword and the spear. Some of the tribes are expert

in the use of the blow-pipe and poisoned darts. This blow-pipe is a truly astonishing achievement of purely manual skill. With merely a knife and an axe, the native fashions a tube seven feet long with an external diameter of one inch, tapering to three-quarters of an inch



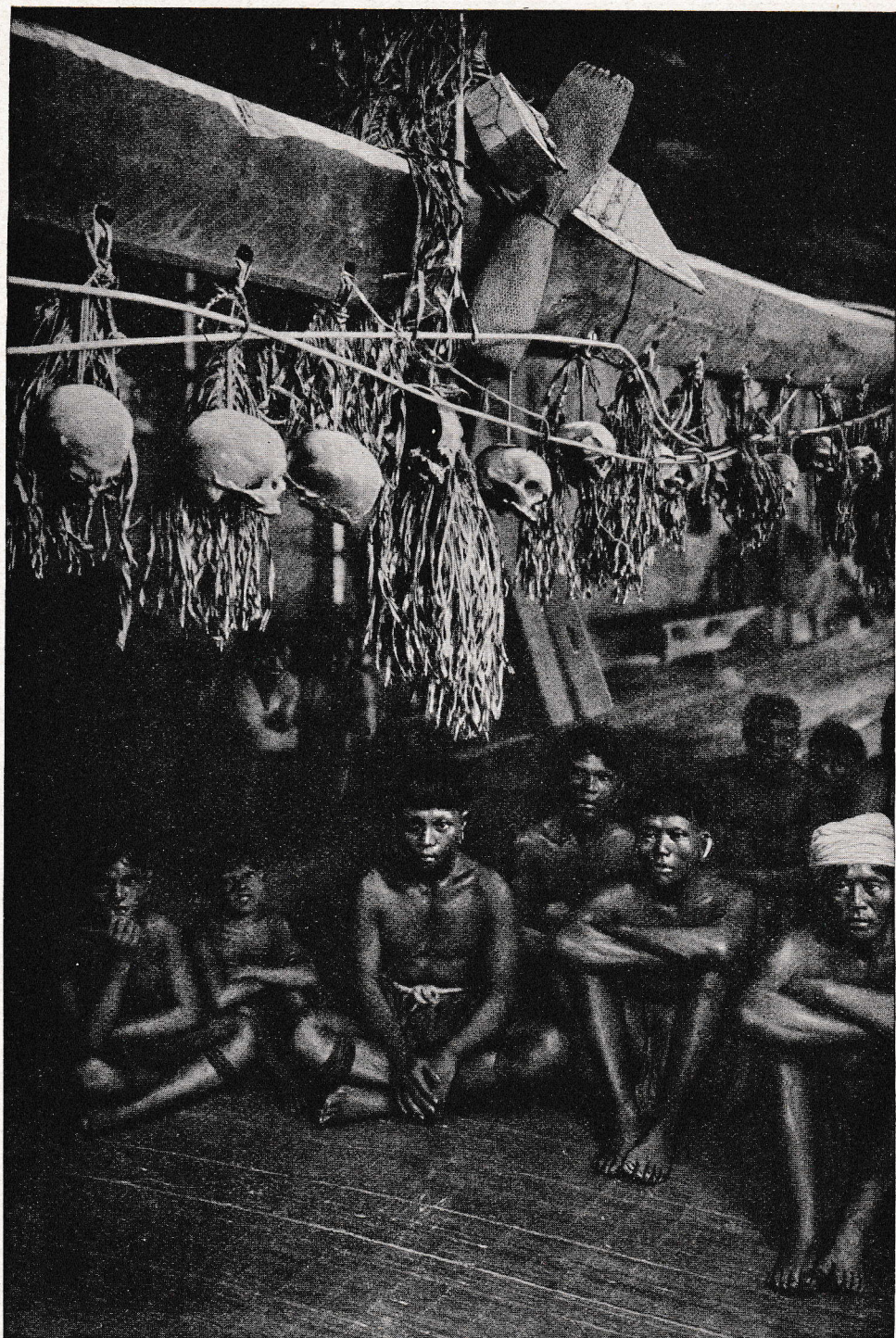
VERANDA, COMMON-ROOM, AND VILLAGE STREET IN ONE: THE GALLERY OF A KAYAN LONG HOUSE

Kayan houses are marvels of carpentering skill. Some are as much as four hundred yards in length, accommodating a hundred and twenty families, and constituting in effect a fortified village. A roofed gallery running the whole length is virtually the village street as well as the common sitting-room, from which doors on one side lead into spacious rooms that are each the private apartment of one family



INTERIOR OF A FAMILY APARTMENT IN A KLEMANTAN NATIVE LONG HOUSE

It serves as bed-room, dining-room, and kitchen. The fireplace is of clay, boarded round and set against the wall of the gallery, and is furnished with a few stones, on which the pots are set for cooking. The family eat their meals squatting on the floor, and at night sleep on it on mats. Baskets, clothes, and utensils of all kinds are hung round the walls and from the rafters



GHASTLY WAR TROPHIES IN THE GALLERY OF A KAYAN LONG HOUSE

Heads of enemies killed in battle are hung by the Kayans in a single row from the lower edge of a long beam over the principal hearth. The brains having been removed, the head is dried over a fire and suspended by a rattan passed through a hole pierced in the vertex. The trophies are adorned with bunches of palm leaves

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at the muzzle, and with merely an iron chisel he drives through this a perfectly true bore one-third of an inch in diameter. The weapon has a range of about seventy yards and the accuracy of a rifle. A short spear is lashed bayonet-wise to the end to provide a defensive weapon. Wooden shields are used by almost all the tribes.

Before attacking, favourable omens must be obtained, and men are told off for this work. When, in the early morning, the attacking party has quietly surrounded a village, bundles of dry wood shavings are ignited under the houses among the boats and timbers. Then ensues a scene of wild confusion.

The calm stillness of the tropical dawn is broken by the deep war-chorus of the attacking party, the crackling of the fires, and by the shouts and screams of the people of the house suddenly roused from sleep.

A war-party, returning home in its boats, makes no secret of its success. As the villagers come out to gaze at the passing boats those who have taken heads stand up while the others paddle the boat. The heads, slightly dried by smoke, are placed in the stern of the boat.

One plausible view of the origin of head-taking is that it arose out of the custom of slaying slaves on the death of a chief, in order that they might



PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN BORNEO AGAINST EPIDEMIC DISEASE

One of the minor deities recognized by the Kenyahs affords protection against sickness and attack. Images of him, not precisely idols, are placed at the principal landing-place in front of a village to ward off infection should an epidemic break out elsewhere in the district

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accompany and serve him on his journey to the other world. The natives believe themselves to be surrounded by many intelligent powers capable of influencing their welfare for good or ill. Guidance is sought from the behaviour of the omen-birds and in the entrails of the slaughtered pigs and fowls, in regard to the wishes of the gods.

In a case of severe illness of mysterious origin that seems to threaten to end fatally, the theory generally accepted is that the patient's soul has left the body, and the treatment indicated is therefore an attempt to persuade the soul to return.

The professional soul-catcher is generally a person who has served a considerable period of apprenticeship, after having been admonished to take up this calling in a dream often experienced during sickness. He gives directions to be followed by the patient, especially in regard to articles of diet, and retires, leaving his fee to be sent after him, the

amount of which is left to the generosity of the patient.

Before the native house stand upright two or more great boles of timber; the upper end of each of them is carved into a rude face and crowned with a brass gong. When the gods are addressed, the ceremony usually takes place before one of these posts. A tall young tree, stripped of all but the topmost twigs, stands beside one of them, and is supposed to reach to heaven, or at least, by its greater proximity to the regions above, to facilitate intercourse therewith.

Whenever it becomes specially interesting or important to ascertain the future course of events—for example, when a village proposes to make war, or when two parties are about to go through a peace-making ceremony—a pig is caught, tied by the feet, and brought before the chief in the gallery of the house, who, speaking through the medium of the pig, consults the gods. The ceremony is prefaced by a prayer,



AUGURS OF BORNEO CONSULTING THE AUSPICES

Before embarking upon any public expedition the Kenyahs always consult the white-headed carrion hawk. Building a shelter of sticks and leaves on the river-bank, three men of the upper class watch for hawks, three of which must fly in a particular course to be propitious. Fowls and a pig are then sacrificed to the chief god, and all is well.



CHARGING A PIG WITH A MESSAGE TO THE GODS

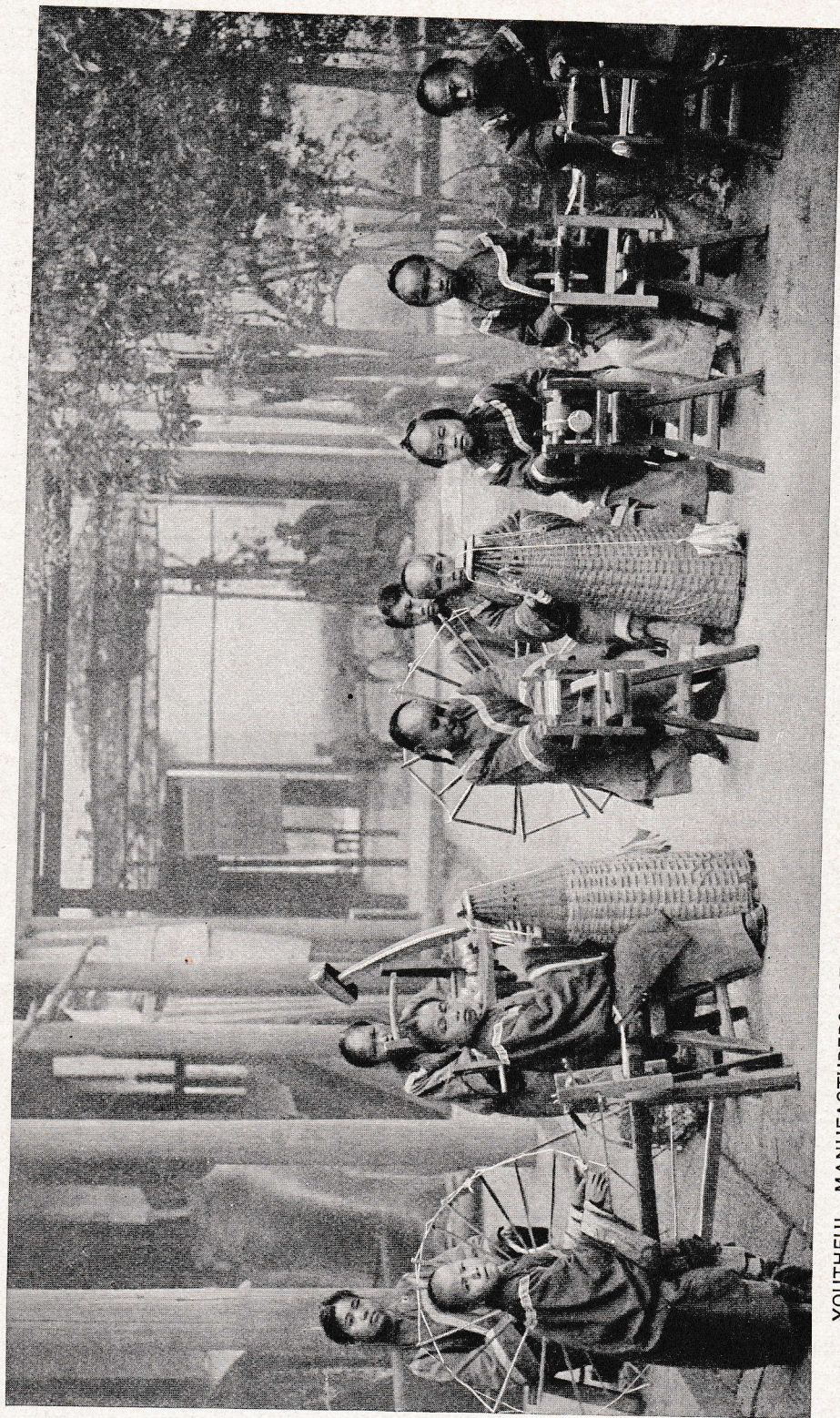
Whenever Kayans and Kenyahs kill a domestic pig they make it an opportunity for both prayer and divination. The live pig, bound, is prodded with a smouldering torch by the chief, who utters a prayer, which the soul of the pig, when released by a spear-thrust, shall carry to the god. Answer to the prayer is then found in the liver of the dead animal

when a fire is lighted, the belief being that the smoke is a vehicle of communication between man and the gods.

The pig is then slain, and the answer is obtained from the appearance of the liver. The omens thus obtained are held to be the answer vouchsafed by the god to the prayers which have been carried to him by the spirit of the pig. These rites afford an extremely interesting parallel with similar ceremonies practised by Greek, Roman, and other early Western peoples.

Natural death is recognized by the people of Borneo as inevitable in old age, and disease is vaguely conceived as the effect of natural causes. Cholera and smallpox have ravaged large areas of Borneo from time to time. The people

recognize that both these diseases spread up river from village to village, and to prevent intercourse with all villages lower down river the people of a tributary stream will fell trees across its mouth or lower reaches so as to block it completely, or will stretch a rope from bank to bank as a sign that no one may enter. Such a sign is generally respected by inhabitants of other parts of the river-basin, and ought to be strictly respected by all travellers. Disregard of this warning by European explorers, ignorant, no doubt, of its intention, has been the cause of many a hostile reception, and has led to bloodshed which might have been wholly avoided if the explorers had been equipped with some general knowledge of the principles of conduct of savage peoples.



YOUTHFUL MANUFACTURERS OF BASKETS INTENT ON THE PROMOTION OF THEIR TRADE IN HONGKONG

They have small hands, in very truth, but singularly nimble fingers, which have been carefully trained in one of the most universal of arts, and one that ranks among the most ancient of industries. Twigs, rushes, and other flexible material they can interweave into many useful and ornamental designs; they excel in wicker-work, and, with splits from various species of bamboo, baskets of unequalled beauty are fashioned by some of these small representatives of the Celestial Empire

British Empire in Asia

III. Hongkong: An Eastern Link of Empire

By H. B. Morse, LL.D.

Late of The Imperial Chinese Customs Service

ON the Kowloon territory of the colony of Hongkong is to be seen an inscription on the rock over a cave which is declared to record the otherwise unknown fact that the last of the Sung emperors, A.D. 1278, there found a refuge from the soldiers of Kublai Khan. If this is anything more than popular tradition, it is the only historical record of Hongkong until August, 1839, when the English community of Canton, driven from Macao by the truculence of Commissioner Lin Tsesü, found shelter there. Until that date no pen had had occasion to write of the place; and since then the meaning of the name has been in dispute. That most in favour has been *Fragrant Streams*, derived from the excellent quality of the water available for watering ships; but that in Cantonese is *Höngkün*. In an official document the Chinese name is first found in the treaties of Nanking, 1842, and of the Bogue, 1843; the characters used therein are in Cantonese *Höngkong*, which may be rendered *Fair Haven*.

A Topaz Changed to Emerald

The island is a "precious stone set in the silver sea." Its glowing yellow topaz has, by the energy of three generations of British administrators and merchants, been transformed into emerald green; its hills once covered by grass, burnt yellow by the torrid sun, are now mantled with great forests, planted by successive superintendents of the Forestry Department. This is typical of Hongkong. It did not just grow; it has been created by the energy and enterprise of its administrators and its merchants.

Yet the island has many natural advantages. The tourist must go far afield to find a scene to be compared with the

beauty of Hongkong, when approached from the south-west or the north-east; the view from the harbour of the city of Victoria—by day of its houses terracing the hillside, surmounted by the green upper slopes, by night of its many lights twinkling in the amphitheatre to a height of a thousand feet—can only be equalled by the view from the Peak, looking down on the harbour with its shipping, and over to the busy suburb of Kowloon.

The Island City in its Early Days

When the English first arrived they found the island inhabited only by a few fisher-folk; there were no houses for them, and perforce they remained in their ships. When the proposal to obtain a depot, such as Hongkong was destined to be, was first made by James Bradshaw in 1781, it was only as a place in which the ships might be refitted; the imports left unsold might be stored until the next season; the supercargoes might abide between seasons instead of going to Macao; and the sailors in the ships might not be under Chinese jurisdiction.

These were the avowed objects in the instructions given at various later dates to ask for a depot, and on these lines the development of Hongkong began. The trade continued to be conducted at Canton, and Hongkong served only as repairing station, storage warehouse, and resting-place until, in December, 1856, the Chinese destroyed the Canton factories, and brought the British to realize that their only security lay in transferring the trade to Hongkong.

At first the merchants chiefly needed a place in which they could remain from March, when the last of the ships of the season ordinarily sailed, until September, when the earliest ships of



HONGKONG THOROUGHFARE CROWDED WITH SIGHT-SEERS ON THE OCCASION OF FAMOUS DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
 Connected with one of the many religious festivals of the Chinese, this procession in its fantastic gaudiness, its oddity, and garish freakishness, attracts the resident white population—nearly one half of which is British, and one-third Portuguese—quite as wholeheartedly as the Chinese inhabitants. Through the streets filled by a promiscuous crowd, the "Dragon," about eighty yards in length, is seen laboriously making its way, numerous priests and acolytes in attendance, and in the background, symbolical of Britain's sympathetic interest, the Red Ensign waves to and fro in the breeze

BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA

the next season arrived. In those early years they established themselves in the narrow strip of gently sloping land, about 300 feet wide, between Queen's Road and the waterside, the Europeans between Pottinger Street and the City Hall, the Chinese to the west of them, the barracks and the Naval Yard to the east.

Business in a Hot-House

As the need for expansion came in 1857, they began to climb the lower slopes of the hill, culminating in Government House and the Public Gardens. The waterside proprietors controlled their own water frontage until 1860, when a modest reclamation from the sea gave Hongkong its Praya, now called Des Voeux Road; and a further, more ambitious, reclamation, completed in 1903, rescued a strip of level ground from West Point to the Naval Yard, with a new Praya which is named Connaught Road.

This constitutes the city of Victoria, the administrative name of the residential and business town of Hongkong. It lies on the leeward side of the lofty and steep ridge which forms the island, and is shut off from every breath of air during the long summer, April to October, when the trade wind, known on the China coast as the monsoon, blows steadily from between south and south-west. The summer is also the busy trading season, and the officials, the merchants, their assistants, and those who purvey to them, all swelter in a hot-house atmosphere.

Hongkong's Happy Valley

Then came the funicular railway, opened in 1888, from a point near the cathedral up to Victoria Gap, with a gradient in places of 35 degrees; and now from Victoria Gap to Magazine Gap is strung a chaplet of villas, providing, at a height of 900 to 1,000 feet, homes, often in the clouds, for the well-to-do among the Hongkong community.

A little more than a mile to the east of City Hall is Wongneichong Valley, also known as Happy Valley. Here, on the west side of a brook, a trickle of

water in the winter, a raging torrent in the summer rains, lie the cemeteries of the non-Chinese civilian population—in the order up-hill, Mahomedan, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Parsee, Hindoo, and Jewish; directly across the brook lie the inevitable concomitants of a British settlement in the Far East, the racecourse and the recreation ground; and east of these is the Chinese cemetery for those not wealthy enough to have their remains sent back to their ancestral home in China.

This brook was, before the day of the cemeteries, the Fragrant Stream from which the ships were watered for their five-months voyage to England, and the residents obtained their domestic supplies. But the rainfall is seasonal: a monthly mean average of 1.784 ins. in the five months November to March, and of 13.232 ins. in the five months May to September; and storage became a necessity.

Wonderful Harbour & Shipping Centre

Apart from small catchment basins on the northern slopes above the city of Victoria, the residents are supplied with water from the Pokfolum and Taitam reservoirs on the southern side of the island, and from one high up the Wongneichong valley, with a total storage capacity of 515,000,000 gallons. From Pokfolum, the first to be made, the water is conducted by a conduit around the western end of the island, carried by siphons under some of the ravines. The Taitam water is carried under the ridge to the northern side by a tunnel 2,350 yards long, and thence westwards by a conduit, 400 feet above sea-level and about four miles long, over which is built the Bowen Road. With its many bridges, this conduit road is a beautiful piece of engineering.

Across the harbour on the northern side lies Kowloon, sometimes spelt Kaulung. This was not included in the original cession, but in 1860 the four square miles of the Kowloon Peninsula were leased in the spring, and in October formally ceded to the British Crown. Here were established docks for

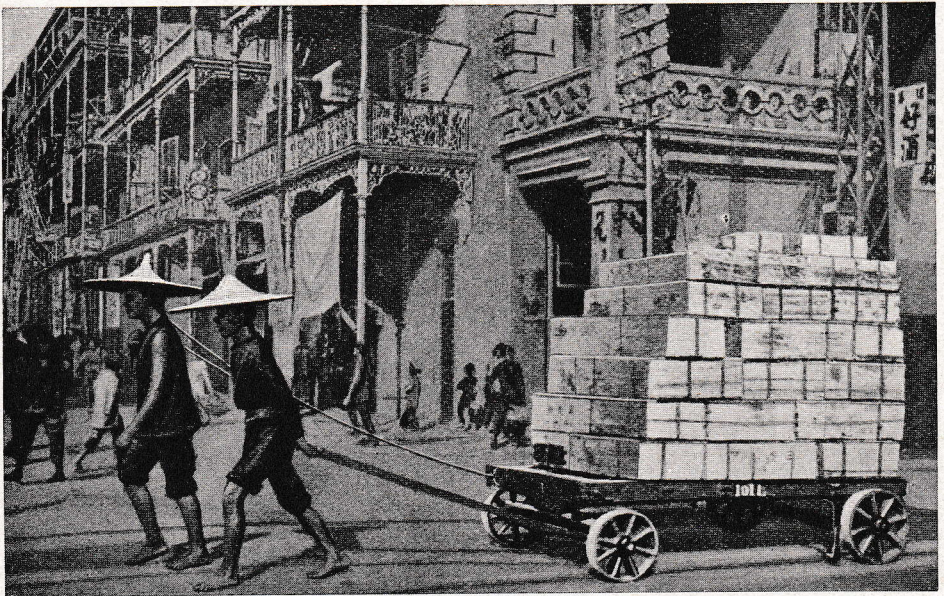
BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA

repairing ships, wharves, and ware-houses, and a residential suburb open to the breezes of summer.

The clause in the treaty of Nanking by which the island of Hongkong was ceded to the British Crown, gave the reason for the cession in the following words: "It being obviously necessary and desirable that British subjects should have some port whereat they may careen and refit their ships, when required, and keep stores for that purpose." It was for their shipping that the British required a depot; and for that the harbour of Hongkong is perfect. With a general depth of six to eight fathoms at low water close to the shore, it is completely sheltered in all directions from wind and sea. Only the devastating typhoons can trouble it, and of them only the fiercest; such as that of September 18th, 1906, when in the space of two hours there were sunk or seriously damaged in or near the harbour 67 European vessels, 652 Chinese junks, 54 lighters, 70 steam-launches, and innumerable sampans. Ordinarily the harbour is one of the

safest salt-water anchorages in the world; and, in the day of the sailing ship, it had the inestimable advantage of having an entrance from the east and one from the south-west, so that it could be entered or left in either monsoon, and with the wind from any direction. In those days ships arrived at Hongkong as a terminus; but, with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, a great impetus was given to steam navigation to the Far East, and steamers bound ultimately for Shanghai and for Japan made it a port of call. This has made Hongkong a great shipping centre.

Contrary to the intentions of its godfathers, it is as a commercial mart that Hongkong has most distinguished itself. Its merchants were the most pronounced free-traders, before Cobden, before the policy was adopted in the United Kingdom; and from the first their competitors of all nationalities were admitted on an equal footing to all the privileges enjoyed by the British. Freedom of trade and an open market built up Hongkong and developed a commerce which places it in the first rank. This



HARDY AND ABLE-BODIED BURDEN BEARERS OF HONGKONG

With thews and sinews of steel, they easily accomplish the ponderous tasks of the horse. Nothing comes amiss to them, and proofs of their powers of endurance are daily in evidence in the streets of this island city, for the strength of the coolie is such as to enable him to raise, shoulder, and carry many a load which the average European porter could not hope so much as to move



CHINESE COUNTERPART OF WORLD CHILDREN'S FAVOURITE SHOW

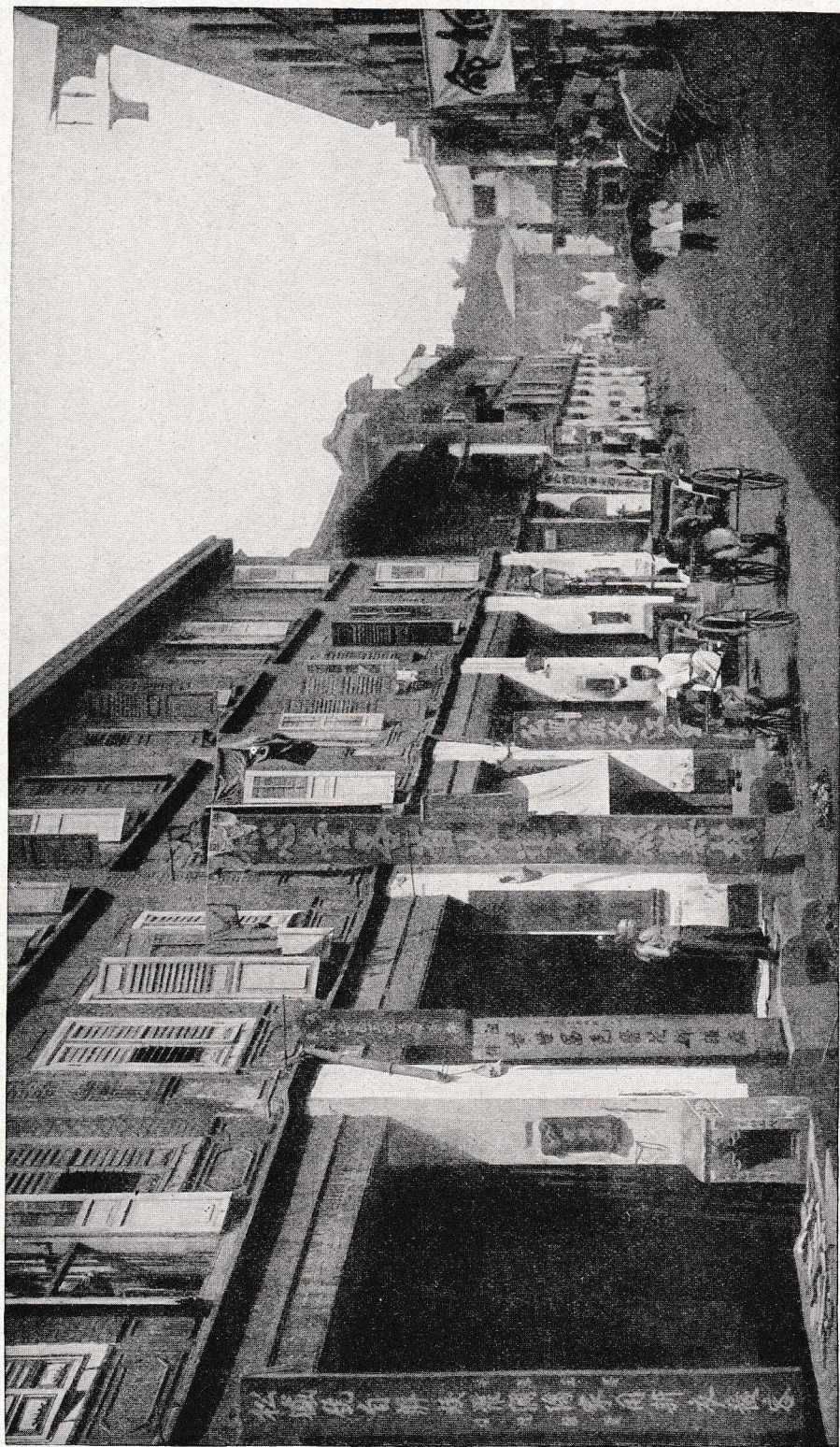
Coolies and their children are here seen enjoying a Punch and Judy show in Old Kowloon City, for in the Orient, as in the Occident, this humorous puppet play is a reigning favourite of the masses. Ever ready for a piece of fun, they will stand for hours delighting in the buffoonery of a fellow-coolie; low jests, grimaces, and antic postures exciting them to a high pitch of enthusiasm

freedom means exemption not only from customs duties, but from all control or supervision, and even from reporting the imports and exports. There are therefore no statistics of the trade of Hongkong, and all that can be stated with any degree of certainty is that, in any given year, its buying and selling are about half of those of Shanghai.

The hospitality shown to foreign nationalities was also extended to the Chinese, who have flocked to the feast of trade; in the old territory alone, a hundred years ago almost uninhabited, they now constitute 96 per cent. of the civilian population, natives of India being probably three per cent., Europeans and Americans but little over one per cent. Here you may see the Chinese merchant, selling his silk, or buying Manchester cottons for distribution through Southern China; the shrewd, keen Chinese shopkeeper, displaying the silver and lacquered ware, the embroidered silks, the carved ivories, the choice furniture of his or

his father's native land; the alert huckster, bent on supplying every need of all customers; the servant, the porter, the hewer of wood and drawer of water for the motley population.

In industry Hongkong made a late start, the production of cement, and of cordage from Manilla hemp, being among the earliest enterprises. The repairing of ships led naturally to their construction, and several docks have been built for this purpose. Sugar imported from Java and the Philippines is refined in Hongkong, and sent thence to Chinese ports, the Chinese importation of Hongkong refined sugar in 1919 being 140,000 tons. Cotton-spinning mills were started in 1895, and run 55,000 spindles. To these must be added a flour-mill, a saw-mill, glass works, soap works, match works, and many others. All the prime materials have to be imported, but, subject to this restriction, there seems to be no limit to the industrial development of Hongkong under the security of the British flag.



GAUDY SIGNS AND VIVID FASCIAS IN MALACCA STREET IN THE CHINESE QUARTER OF SINGAPORE

Chinese carry on most of the shopkeeping and local trade in Singapore, and Chinese traders and retail dealers occupy a special portion of the town. Indefatigable in the pursuit of their own interests, they hurry to and fro in loose trousers and cotton jackets, remaining late at work long after others have closed their shops. The lower-class Chinese live closely herded together, but generally are law-abiding and hard-working

British Empire in Asia

IV. The Polyglot Life of the Straits Settlements

By Sir Frank Swettenham, G.C.M.G.

Late Governor of the Straits Settlements and Author of "British Malaya"

THE small island of Singapore, separated from the mainland of the Malay Peninsula, is only a few miles from the southernmost point of Asia. It is a great port of call, coaling and refitting station for shipping, a hive of industry, and market for the exchange of Eastern and Western produce. One hundred and twenty miles north-west of Singapore is Malacca, occupying a narrow strip of the peninsula bordering the Strait of Malacca. Another 240 miles farther north is the island of Penang, with another strip of the peninsula named Province Wellesley. These two islands and two strips of mainland constitute the colony of the Straits Settlements with other smaller islands and an insignificant slice of peninsula, seventy miles south of Penang. Speaking generally, the two islands, one at the northern and the other at the southern end of the Malacca Strait, are densely inhabited and important trading stations, while Malacca and Province Wellesley are agricultural districts, where Malays are in the majority.

Sixty-nine different languages are spoken by the people who, for various reasons, have

been attracted to the colony. The most generally spoken language is Malay—371 persons in every 1,000 use it. The next language in most general use is the Hok Kieu dialect of Chinese, by 218 persons in every 1,000. Only 23 per cent. of the inhabitants speak a European language. The immense majority of the inhabitants

of the British colony—inappropriately named the Straits Settlements—are Chinese, and it is not too much to say that the ever-increasing prosperity of the colony is mainly due to their industry and enterprise, in a climate congenial to them, and under an administration which, while imposing as few burdens as possible, has given equal opportunities to all comers. The fact that the founder of Singapore, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, made the ports of the colony free, attracted settlers from all neighbouring countries, and especially from China. They realized that the stations at either end of the Malacca Strait were ideal ports of call for all shipping between the West and Farthest East, and when the enterprise of European merchants and traders had supplied the necessary facilities for



ENGAGING MALAY GIRL

Her black hair, pulled off her forehead, is fastened neatly in a knob behind. Singularly winning is the smile with which the Malay girl confronts the world



SOOTHING CARE BY WANDERING MINSTRELSY

Her good-humoured face smiles out from the ample sari that drapes her head and shoulders and falls like a shawl over her flowered jacket and the cotton sarong that reaches to her ankles. On her single-stringed guitar she strums a monotonous melody. Malay wandering minstrels, known as soothers of care, repeat and perpetuate the folk-tales of the country



SON O' MINE: A MALAY GROUP IN SINGAPORE

Malays are devoted to their children, who up to the age of fifteen or sixteen are most engaging creatures. They trot about with their parents, and when a baby is tired, the mother swings it on to her hip and twists a sling for it out of her sari, in which it rides happily and comfortably

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docking, coaling, and refitting, the prosperity of the Settlements was assured, and Singapore and Penang became great markets and storehouses for the exchange of every conceivable product of West and East.

Chinese who originally came to the colony as labourers grew to be rich merchants, bankers and capitalists, owners of lands, houses, plantations, and steamers, ready to finance any profitable scheme either in the colony or the neighbouring Malay States.

The shopkeepers of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca are in the main Chinese. The clerical services in Government offices, in banks, and in mercantile houses are largely staffed by Chinese, and their ability, honesty, and energy are universally recognized. Others are skilled mechanics, contractors, and builders, and there is no manual labour which they are not ready to undertake. Wherever physical strength is required, as in dock and warehouse labour or the coaling of ships, Chinese are employed. In the harbour they are excellent boat-

men; in coastal villages they are fishermen; and inland they are gardeners and plantation workers. As rickshaw pullers they hold a practical monopoly of a job which is too hard for persons of other nationalities.

Wealthy Chinese are almost invariably owners of landed property, and they are especially proud of their country houses, their gardens and their fish ponds, their motor-cars and their racehorses. Chinese established in the colony for more than one generation speak Malay—of a kind—as often as, or more often than, Chinese; because it is the lingua franca of the colony. This is the case with the boys of the well-to-do Chinese who have been educated in the best schools of the colony, and in Penang and Malacca it is probably true of the girls also. By far the majority of Straits-born Chinese are very proud of the fact that they are British subjects, and take little interest in China or her affairs.

Most of the Malays—who are next in numbers to the Chinese—are settled on the land in Malacca and Province



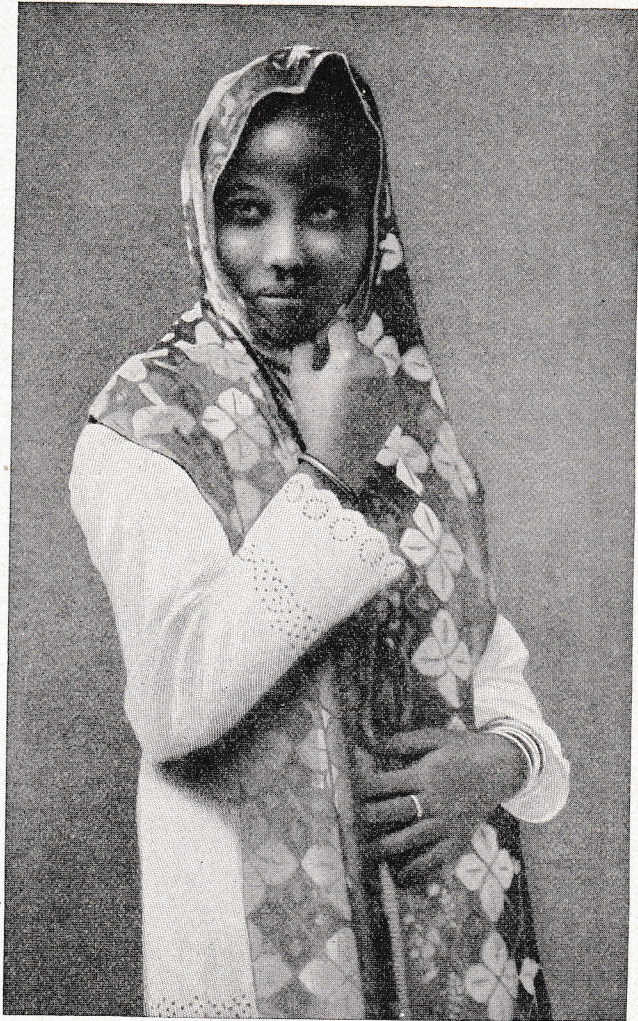
YOUNG KLING FEMALE IMPERSONATOR

He belongs to the ancient Dravidian race, perhaps the most primitive of all the Indian types distributed over Southern Hindustan and found in thousands in the East Indian seaports and the Straits Settlements. This lad earns his living by donning girl's costume and dancing in the streets of Singapore to the music of his older comrades' guitar and portable harmonium

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Wellesley, where they grow rice and fruit, especially coconuts, spend their days or nights in sea-fishing, or work spasmodically at any job to which a gentleman may turn his hand when he is in want of a little money. If the country was not made for the Malay—and there is evidence that he came originally from elsewhere—he has fitted himself exactly to the colour and atmosphere of his surroundings. He is equally at home in the jungle or on the water, but while the waters of the Malacca Strait offer him great opportunities by which he profits, the jungle has disappeared, and in its place are rice fields, coconut groves, and fruit gardens, where wooden cottages, the floors of which are always well above the ground, serve as convenient places to sit and watch how bountiful nature, in a warm, moist climate, rewards the smallest efforts. The Malay is a philosopher, and while he realizes that Chinese energy means the acquisition of many worldly goods, he smiles at the effort, and hardly envies the yellow man his possessions.

Natives of India—who come next—speak many tongues, worship many different gods, and follow many different callings. There are Parsee merchants and portly Hindu money-lenders, clerks and cattle-keepers and cab-drivers, estate labourers, road menders, barbers, and washermen, all small but necessary wheels in the machinery of a great and busy community. There are also many well-to-do Indian shop-



PLEASANT LITTLE MAIDEN OF MALAY

Large dark eyes, mouth well-shaped, if rather large, extremely white teeth, and abundant black hair, make the average Malay girl an attractive little person. Fine cotton cloths stamped with patterns such as this girl is wearing are made in Java

keepers who supply the wants of their fellow countrymen. More than other Asiatics the natives of India, especially of the humbler sort, are gregarious, and while their villages or streets are easily recognizable in the light of day, by night you know them from afar by reason of the strange songs or maddening drum beats which make their happiness till long after midnight. In this respect, however, the Chinese theatre orchestras can give the Indians a lengthy start and a beating. The Eurasian

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population, though comparatively small, is interesting. It is seldom or never described, and that brilliant writer, Aberigh-Mackay, was possibly the first Englishman to devote an article to the Eurasian. His description remains inimitable, but written of the Indian Eurasian, it would not be a faithful picture of the Straits Eurasians. These are the descendants of the Portuguese and Dutch, who by turn occupied Malacca, and in more recent years there may be a few descendants of British men and Eurasians or native women.

To-day the Eurasians form a considerable society in all three Settlements of the colony. The men, after an education at one or other of the colony's

schools, seek service mainly with the Government, and largely in the clerical branches, where they do admirable work. Others qualify for medical work, or join European firms of lawyers, bankers, or merchants in some minor capacity. Eurasian girls, like their brothers, are educated at the English-teaching schools. In appearance they are often attractive, and they must have no difficulty in finding husbands among their own people, for it is rare for them to marry outside that circle.

As intelligent, reliable, and hard-working clerks it would be difficult to find the equals of the best Straits Eurasians. Comparing them with Eurasians from other places, say India or Ceylon, it has often been remarked by those with long experience that Straits Eurasians hold their own easily. They are exclusive, and of their family life outsiders have few opportunities of judging. Born and bred in that climate, it would not be fair to expect Eurasian men to be distinguished by great strength of character any more than one would hope to find in Eurasian women an absence of frailties common to their sex. The colony could not do without its Eurasian community.

If the European population of the colony is one of the smallest in numbers it is by far the most important. Besides the fact that it comprises the senior Government officials, the garrison, the control of municipal government, of docks and harbours and submarine telegraphs, all the banks, mercantile houses, and representatives of great steamship and other companies are in the



CHINESE TAPPER INTENT ON HIS JOB

He is watching the latex flowing from the incisions in the rubber-tree. Presently he will go from tree to tree collecting it, when it will be taken to the rubber store to be coagulated and dried and prepared in ribbons, sheets, or blocks for export

Photo, L. Harland



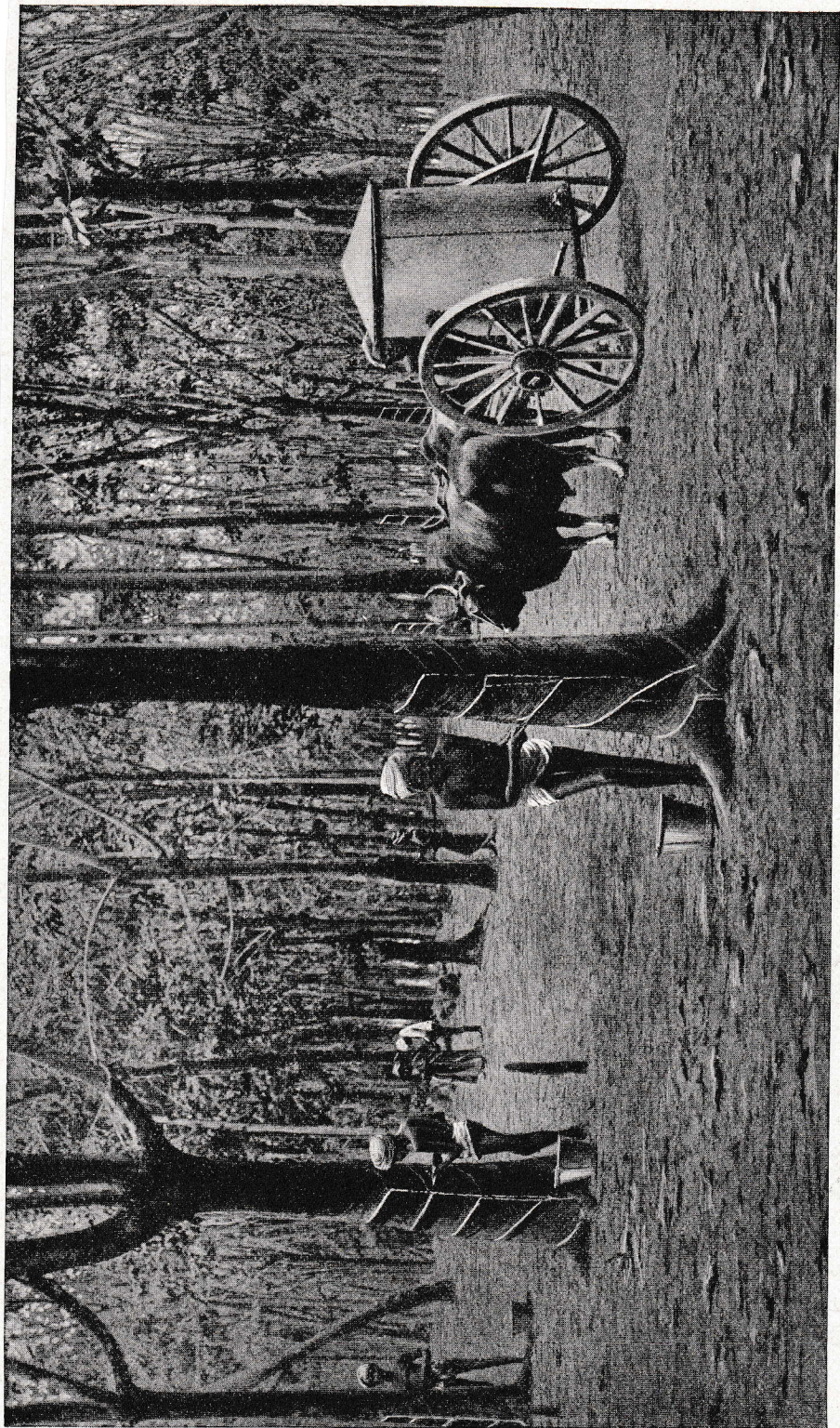
MALAY GIRL-WORKERS ON A RUBBER ESTATE IN SINGAPORE

Care and practice are required in the task of these girls, with their gay sarongs, for the trees may be badly damaged if cut too deep or tapped too frequently. The tappers use small knives so made that they cannot pierce the bark deeper than the layer in which the latex is secreted, and do not tap the same tree oftener than every other day



OVERSEER AND YOUNG WORKERS ON A SINGAPORE RUBBER ESTATE IN FRIENDLY COLLOQUY

Scientific rubber planting gives employment to scores of thousands of people—women and children, as well as men, being able to earn good wages in the plantations. Indian emigrants in particular prove themselves intelligent, industrious, and loyal servants to their employers, who, in turn, provide them with everything to conduce to their health and comfort in their work. Rubber plantations now occupy about two million acres in British Malaya



INDIAN EMIGRANT LABOURERS BUSY IN A RUBBER PLANTATION IN BRITISH MALAYA

Since 1905 the Malay Peninsula has become the chief centre of the rubber-planting industry, which is carried on on scientific lines by an army of European managers and assistants and a vast host of native labourers, mostly Indian emigrants. The organization in effective operation in Malaya provides an interesting contrast to the cruder methods still necessarily practised in the undeveloped rubber belts of the Amazon valley, as illustrated on pages 496 and 497

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hands of Europeans. None of these representative men are colonists, any more than the members of the garrison, which is constantly changing. They are simply birds of passage, temporary dwellers in an enervating climate, which necessitates periodical visits to a temperate zone.

Europeans, even more than the Chinese, or any other immigrants, are in the Straits to work, but they manage to amuse themselves, when they can find

the time, with cricket, football, golf, polo, horse-racing, shooting, tennis, rowing, swimming, and, indoors, with dancing and billiards. In defiance of the sun, cricket matches are played all day. Otherwise, all the men are supposed to work from an early hour till 5 p.m., when they rush off to get the form of exercise which appeals most to each individual. European ladies have enough to do at home in the heat of the day, but the afternoons find most of



AMONG THE PEPPER VINES OF THE SPICY EAST

Penang and Singapore produce most of the world's pepper supply. In cultivation the vines are trained over rough-barked tree-stumps and produce two crops a year, gathered, if black pepper is desired, when the berries are full grown, but before the fruit is quite mature. The finer, but less pungent, white pepper is prepared from the ripe fruit



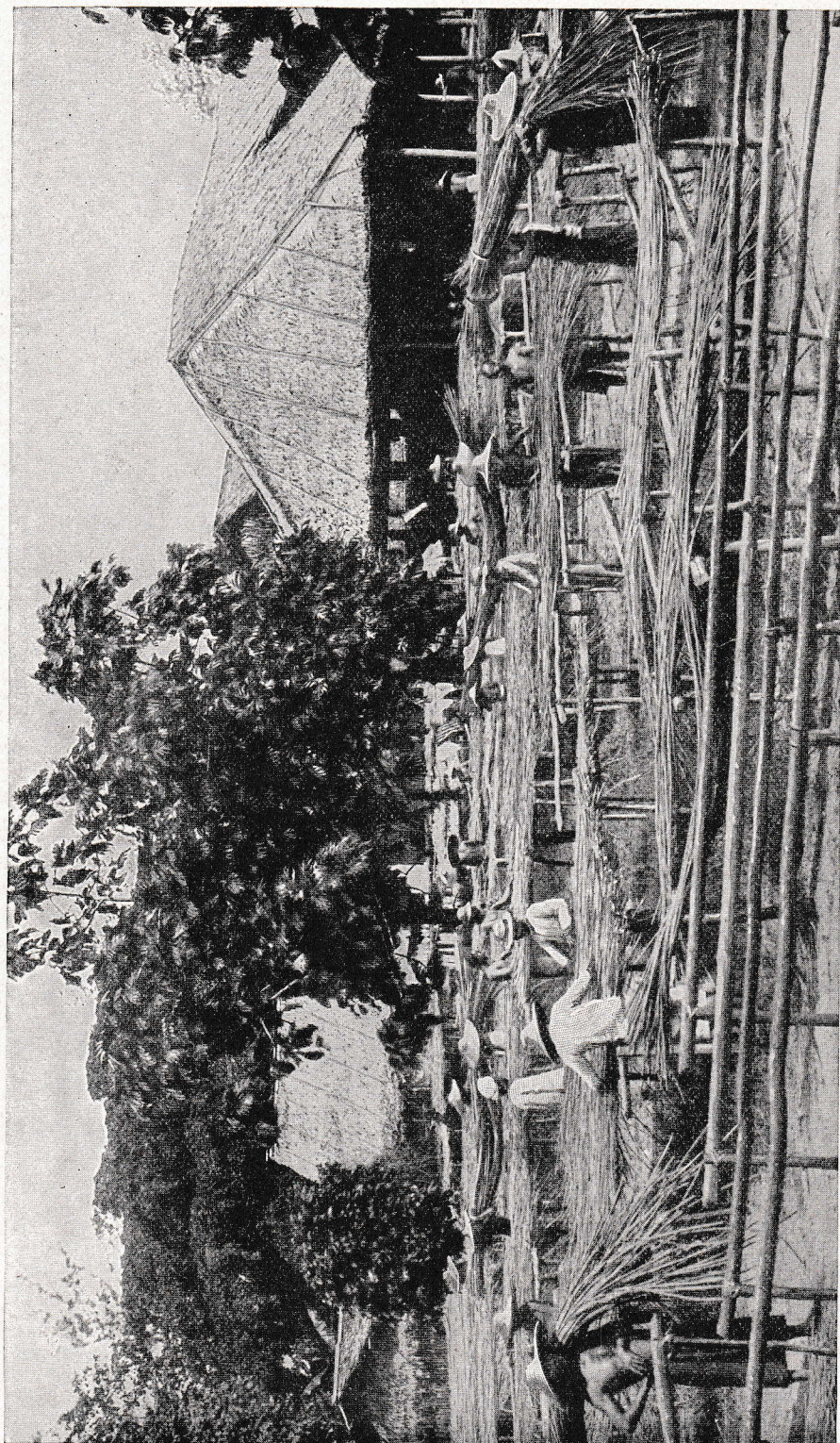
BEAUTY AND UTILITY IN PERFECTION: CHAMPION COCONUT TREES

In the coconut palm nature has produced a plant that satisfies almost every need of the peoples in whose regions it grows. It yields them timber, thatch for their houses, fibre for textile purposes, shells for utensils, food and drink. It furnishes more civilized peoples with materials to be put to innumerable uses, and is now cultivated by the million on scientific lines

them on tennis grounds and golf courses, while dancing in the evening is as popular one degree from the Equator as in the temperate climates of the West.

Christmas Island in the eastern part of the Indian Ocean and the Cocos or Keeling group, about 500 miles to the

south-west of it, were annexed to the Straits Settlements in 1900 and 1903 respectively. In 1888 Christmas Island was uninhabited, but to-day it contains about 1,400 people, mainly Chinese, engaged in working valuable deposits of phosphate. About 1826 a party of



DRYING GROUND IN A RATTAN MATTING FACTORY AT SINGAPORE, THE WORLD'S CHIEF RATTAN MARKET

Rattans, or cane palms, have a very slender stem provided with hooked prickles, by means of which they creep up the branches of the jungle trees to reach the light. Some of these stems attain a length of six hundred feet. Having been stripped of their sheathing leaves by the natives, they are cut into standard lengths of fifteen feet and dried in the sun to free them from all the sap. The fruit, when boiled, produces a very agreeable colouring known as dragor.



PREPARING RATTANS UNDER OVER-ARCHING PALMS, NATURE'S KINDLY GIFTS TO MAN IN TROPIC REGIONS

Bundles of the canes are distributed among the factory hands, who pull them round posts to crack and peel off the outer skin to render them more supple, even rubbing them with sand with the same object. The canes are then ready for splitting into halves, quarters, and so on, according to the use to which they are to be put in the making of furniture, seats of chairs, matting, basket work of varying degrees of fineness, and so forth. Rattan sega is the best variety

Photo, G. R. Lambert & Co.



KEK LOK SEE, THE EXQUISITE SHRINE OF BUDDHA AT PENANG

Approached by a massive granite stairway, the Chinese temple at Ayer Iram rises in terraces, temple after temple, to the summit of a hill. Each Buddhist race has here its own temple, and everywhere is Buddha, in alabaster, gold leaf, or brass. The raking gables of Chinese architecture, coloured tablets, carven figures, and terrace gardens, make this temple one of the marvels of the East

Photo, A. R. Hopkins



LABOUR IN A LOVELY SETTING: A BETEL NUT PALM PLANTATION

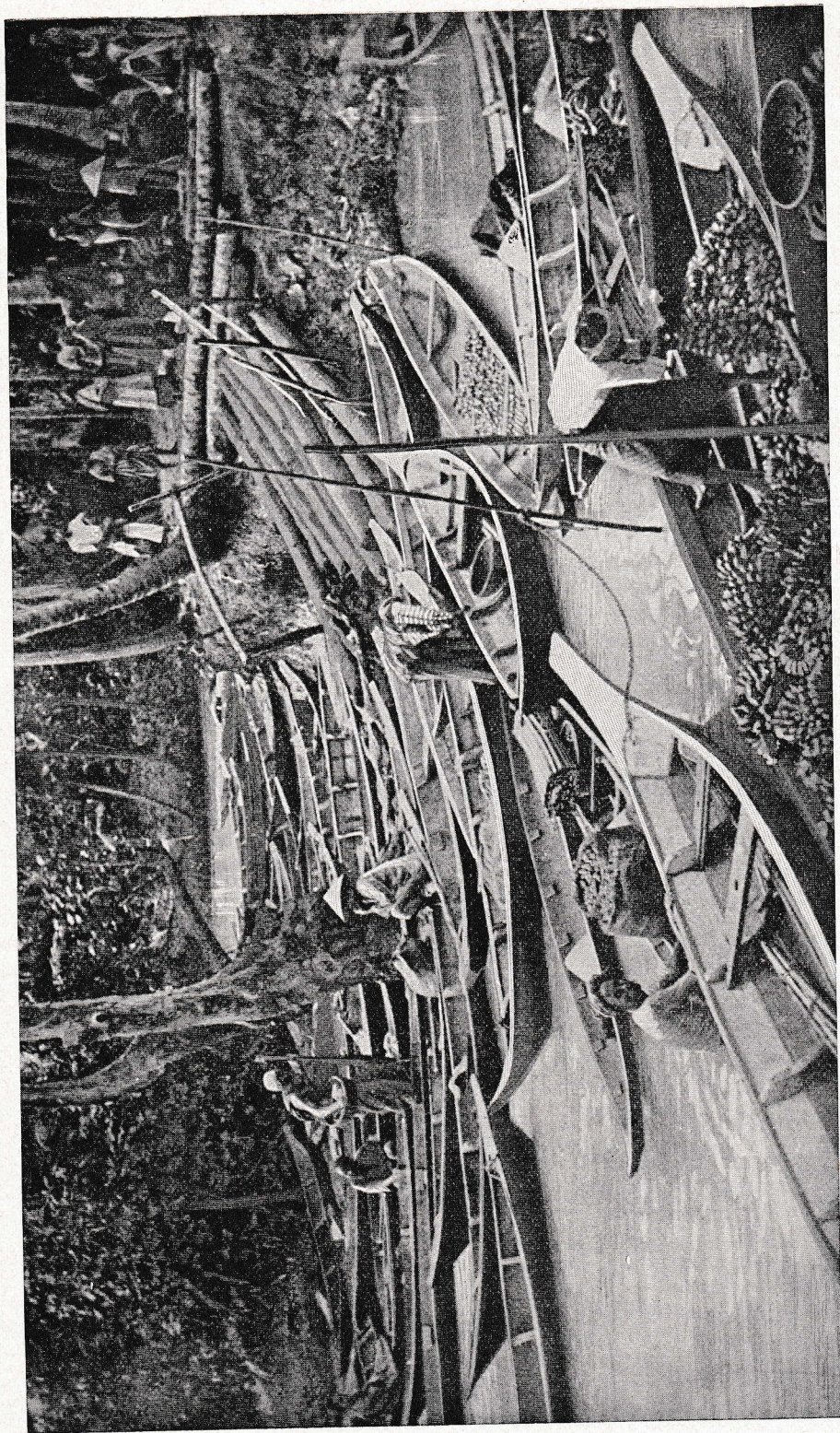
Plantations of *Areca Catechu* are very beautiful, the slender, unbranched stems tapering to a height of fifty feet and crowned with spreading fronds. The fruit is gathered from August to November, and the seed extracted from the fibrous rind, sliced, and dried in the sun, provides the betel nut which all Orientals love to chew

Malays from Sumatra, under the leadership of Alexander Hare, an Englishman, settled in the Cocos Islands and were shortly joined by Captain J. Chinnies Ross, his family, and some Malays. Since then the population has been increased by the immigration of Bantamese from Java, and at the present time may amount to about 1,800 people, engaged in the cultivation of coconuts and the manufacture of copra.

Though the Cocos or Keeling Islands and Christmas Island now form part of the colony of the Straits Settlements, they are so distant and unimportant that their connexion with the colony is hardly realized by those who live in the settlements on the Malacca Strait. The Cocos are 700 miles and Christmas Island about 200 miles south-west of

Java. A British Submarine Telegraph Company has a station on Direction Island in the Cocos group, and on the Cape to Australia route. Christmas Island forms the summit of a submarine mountain over 15,000 feet high.

Mention lastly must be made of Labuan, also administratively attached to the Straits Settlements. Off the coast of Borneo, it lies 725 miles from Singapore and about 40 miles from Brunei, whose Sultan ceded it to Great Britain in 1846. Its fine port, Victoria Harbour, is much used by coasting steamers. The native population consists mostly of Malays and of Chinese traders, and a handful of European residents, including the British deputy-governor, exists in the hot and humid climate.



RICH CARGOES OF TROPICAL FRUITS ON THEIR WAY TO THE MALAY MARKET

The more insignificant of the trading craft are employed for this purpose, and on market days a perfect fleet of small vessels may be seen plying up the river bound for some convenient centre where they may discharge their ripe cargoes. The craft used are chiefly dug-outs, or light fishing boats—things so small and crazy that only an amphibious creature like the Malay would trust himself in them

Photo, Malay States Agency

British Empire in Asia

V. The Malay States & Their Tropic Life

By Sir Frank Swettenham, G.C.M.G.

Author of "The Real Malay"

THREE small territories on the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, Province Wellesley, the Dindings, and Malacca, together with Singapore and Penang form the British Crown Colony named the Straits Settlements. The Malay States, Federated and Non-Federated, occupy the rest of the peninsula until the most northern of them, Perlis on the west and Patani on the east, march with Burma and Siam respectively.

A wide distinction must be drawn between the Federated and Non-Federated States. The former, three of which are on the western side of the peninsula, Negri Sembilan, Selangor, and Perak, invited or accepted British advice in the administration of their affairs as early as 1874, while Pahang, on the eastern side, did the same in 1887. In 1895 these four states became federated by treaty and, while maintaining their independence, accepted a certain amount of control in the administration of their affairs by the British Residents in each of the states, and by a British Resident General, then appointed, to direct the policy of the Residents under the general authority of a High Commissioner, who is also Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Straits Settlements Colony. More recently

the title of Resident General has been changed to that of Chief Secretary. The actual result of this change has been that matters which formerly were settled on the spot by the Malay rulers, in consultation with their British Residents, the Resident General, and the High Commissioner, are now referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and are determined in Downing Street, as though the Malay



SAKAI NOSE PIPERS PERFORM A DUET

Among various primitive accomplishments of the Sakais that of music-making by means of blowing with their nostrils through a reed-pipe is not the least remarkable, and their delight in the two or three weird notes thus produced is unbounded

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States formed part of the Colony. The Malay rulers still exist; there are sultans in Perak, Selangor, and Pahang, and a Yang di per Tuan in Negri Sembilan, but in the published administration reports there is little or no evidence of their authority.

A large Malay state, Johore, occupies the southernmost end of the peninsula immediately north of the island of

Singapore. Johore territory stretches from the Strait of Malacca to the China Sea, and therefore has a coast line on both western and eastern shores of the Malay peninsula. Johore also owns some considerable islands in the China Sea. The Sultan of Johore has been closely connected with the British authorities ever since Sir Stamford Raffles planted the British flag on the

island of Singapore. For some years a British Adviser has resided in Johore, with excellent results; but Johore is not in the Federation, and its Sultan has still a large authority in his own country.

North of Johore, on the west coast, come Malacca and Negri Sembilan, then Selangor, then Perak, Province Wellesley, Kedah—an agricultural state till lately under the dominance of Siam, but now enjoying self-government with the advice of a British Resident—and Perlis. On the east coast, Johore marches with Pahang, north of which lie the states of Trengganu and Kelantan, and north of these there is the country Patani, which is still subject to Siam, and marches with the southernmost province of Siam, named Singora.

While, therefore, Perak, Selangor, and Negri Sembilan on the west coast, with Pahang on the east coast, constitute the Federated Malay States, there are Kedah and Perlis on the west, Kelantan and Trengganu on the east, and Johore right across the southern end of the peninsula which are not federated but



MALAY GATHERING HIS BREAD FROM A TREE

Valuable as food, ranging in weight from 10 to 75 lb., this is the fruit of the jack-fruit, or bread tree, which, "without the plough-share, yields the unrecaped harvests of unfurrowed fields, and bakes its unadulterated loaves without a furnace"

administered under the advice of British officers under the authority of the High Commissioner at Singapore. The distinction politically is considerable, but the natural features of the various states, the composition of their peoples, and the language and customs of the natives of the country, i.e. the Malays, do not greatly differ.

A long range of hills, from the interior of Kedah in the north to Negri Sembilan in the south, divides the western from the eastern states. From this range, which rises to 5,000 feet or more, large rivers run south and west into the Malacca Strait, or south-east and north-east into the China Sea. Until about 1880 almost the whole peninsula was roadless jungle, only excepting the strips which formed part of the Straits Settlements and a small acreage of rice-fields, in Kedah, Kelantan, and Perak, and some pepper and gambir plantations in Johore. To-day there is a west coast railway from Singapore to Province Wellesley, Kedah, and Siam, and an east coast railway, branching in Negri Sembilan from the west coast line, through Pahang, Kelantan, and Patani to join the Siamese southern railway to Bangkok. That means over 1,000 miles of railway, with thousands of miles of excellent roads, large towns, docks and wharves at the seaports, waterworks, and every kind of public building. Outside the towns and villages the traveller



WHEN THE WILD DURIAN RIPENS

With pleasurable anticipation the Malays and Chinese await the ripening of the durian, when basketfuls of it are gathered from the large evergreen trees. A peculiar taste and offensive odour make this fruit most obnoxious to unaccustomed palates

might suppose that the country is still mainly forest, but nearly 2,000,000 acres are now plantations of rubber trees, the *Hevea Braziliensis* imported from South America—and the cultivation of this

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valuable tree is now by far the greatest industry in the Malay States.

The general features of the country differ when viewed from the Malacca Strait and the China Sea. In either case there is a very low coast line, mainly mangrove and mud flats on the west, with large tidal rivers, navigable for small steamers for thirty to fifty miles, flowing into the Malacca Strait. All the land lies under a haze of damp and fervent heat, while there is a vision of blue hills in the far distance. From the China Sea it looks much the same, but the coast line is fine sand, the sea is very shallow, there are few mangroves, the rivers are clear and shallow, not navigable to steamers, and the inland

hills are so distant as to be invisible. During nearly five months, when the north-east monsoon is blowing, this coast is practically closed to steamer traffic.

Up to 1905 the small European population of the four federated states was composed almost entirely of Government officials, their wives and families, and a few planters and tin miners. Since then the Federated States, and in a much smaller degree the Non-Federated States, have become the chief seat of the important rubber planting industry. That industry accounts for the great increase in Europeans, not only as managers and assistants on the plantations, but as agents for British and



BRIDE AND MAIDS BORNE IN STATE THROUGH STREETS OF PEKAN

Nowadays, the wishes of the Malay girls are generally consulted in the matter of matrimony. Society weddings are long, expensive affairs—a wedding-gift must always be money, but with the poorer classes the ceremonies are not nearly so numerous or costly. Like other Mahomedans, a Malay may have four wives at the same time, and, if he can afford it, he usually exercises his right

Photo, Malay States Agency



SIMPLE GRACE OF SARONG CLAD MALAY GIRLS

Malay girls are sometimes surprisingly fair for Easterns, but they vary from all shades of light to dark brown. The girls of the rajats, the people, as distinct from the ruling classes, are capable and domesticated. They have few of the joys and none of the social advantages of their more fortunate society sisters, and for them the only excitement in life is connected with religious festivals and marriages. Note the discarded wooden sandals and their toe posts

other European companies, as engineers in charge of factories, and as medical men to look after the native labour and the superintending staff. The vast sums invested in this industry have also led to the wide extension of Government and private works, railways and roads, water schemes, and new lines of telegraphs and telephones; to say nothing of the provision of greatly extended wharfage facilities for loading and discharging ocean-going steamers

at Port Swettenham, the principal port in the peninsula. Among Europeans there is no leisured class, but almost everyone seizes every available opportunity for recreation in the few hours when that is possible in the climate of a damp hot-house within a few degrees of the Equator. Cricket, lawn-tennis, golf, and even football are vigorously played; polo is the recreation of a few, while dancing is the chief indoor attraction. For those



RETURN OF THE SPOILERS

Roaming among the shady groves of coconut palms the Malay youth spend many a pleasant hour, and seldom return home empty-handed

who can spare the time there is big-game shooting; elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and bison, while sambur and wild pig abound. In their season, snipe and green pigeon afford excellent sport.

The Eurasians, whose numbers are now considerable, have gone to the Malay States in the train of the European to help him as clerk, medical assistant, overseer, and so forth. They take with them the education and the qualities which make them so useful in the places of their birth, and in Malaya, as elsewhere, they remain in their private lives a people apart and somewhat inscrutable.

The Indian population of the Malay States has emigrated to the peninsula in search of better conditions than those which obtain in their native villages, and they have found them. Until the great wave of rubber planting spread over the land, there were comparatively few Indians in the Malay States, and they were employed as small shopkeepers, cart owners and drivers, or they supplied the Government with its labour for building roads and railways. Since rubber planting began on a large scale, Indian agriculturists and others, men, women, and children, have passed yearly in large numbers from Southern India to Malaya, to work on the plantations. In the autumn of 1920, when the crisis in the rubber industry was beginning to be acute, there were probably 200,000 Indians in the four federated states. Since then, owing to the stringent economies necessitated by the situation, large numbers have returned to India, and the labour problem will be difficult when the price of rubber enables the growers to produce all they can at a profit.

The supply of Indian labour has been of enormous benefit to rubber planters, because the labourers have emigrated with their families, and it is possible, on a rubber plantation, to give work at good wages to women and children as well as to men. They are all very amenable to discipline; good workers in the field, clever in the factory, and the best of them take an interest not only in their work, but in the people



LAZY MALAYS TAKE MUCH PAINS IN TILLING THE SOIL

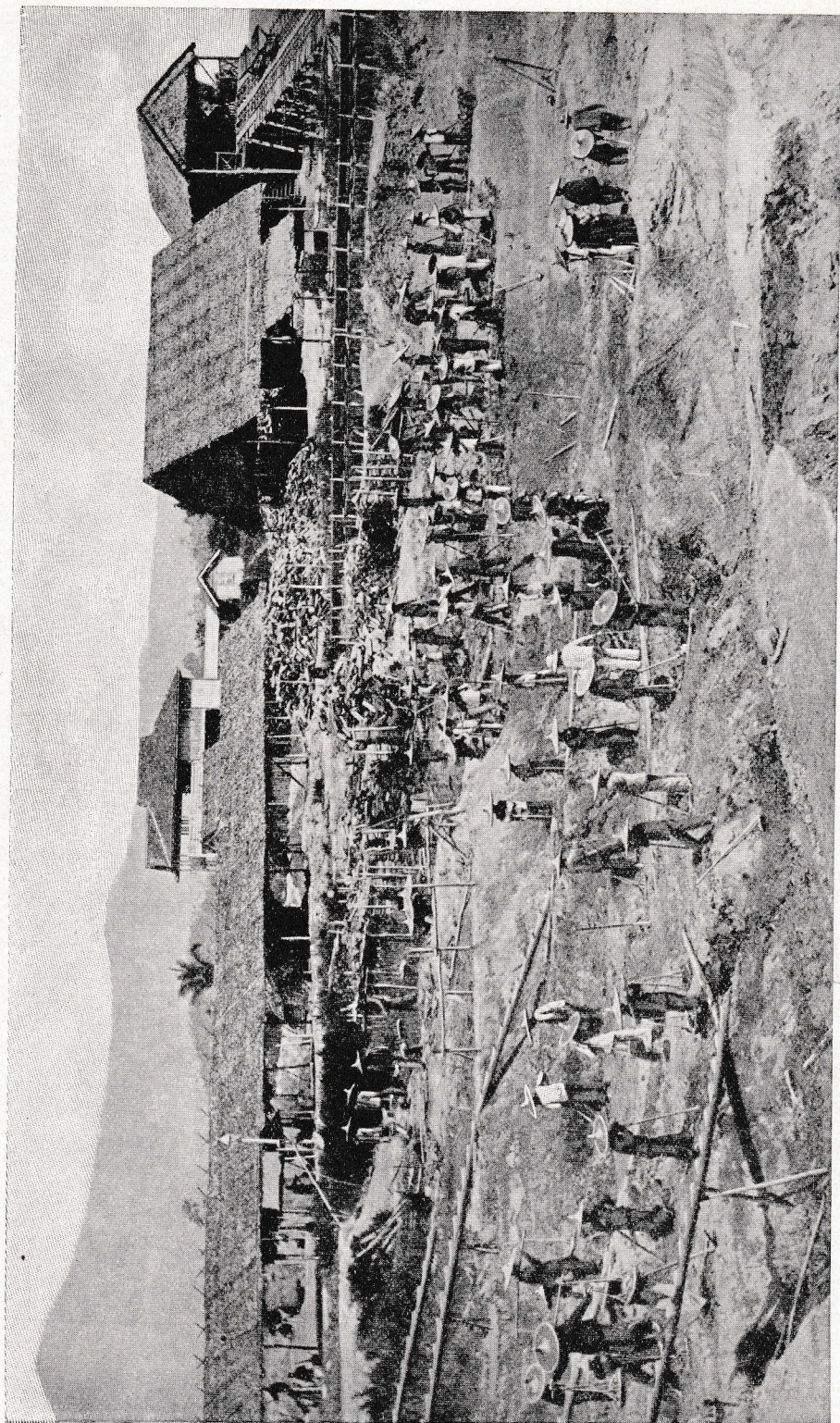
The implements used by the Malays for agricultural purposes are primitive in the extreme ; a plough is usually fashioned from a fork of a tree, and the harrow is of the crudest design. Long, weary hours must be spent by these land labourers in cultivating their own plot of ground, for they heartily dislike toil, and their indolent, pleasure-loving natures would always borrow rather than earn money



STATELY MEASURED MOVEMENTS OF MALAY DANCE

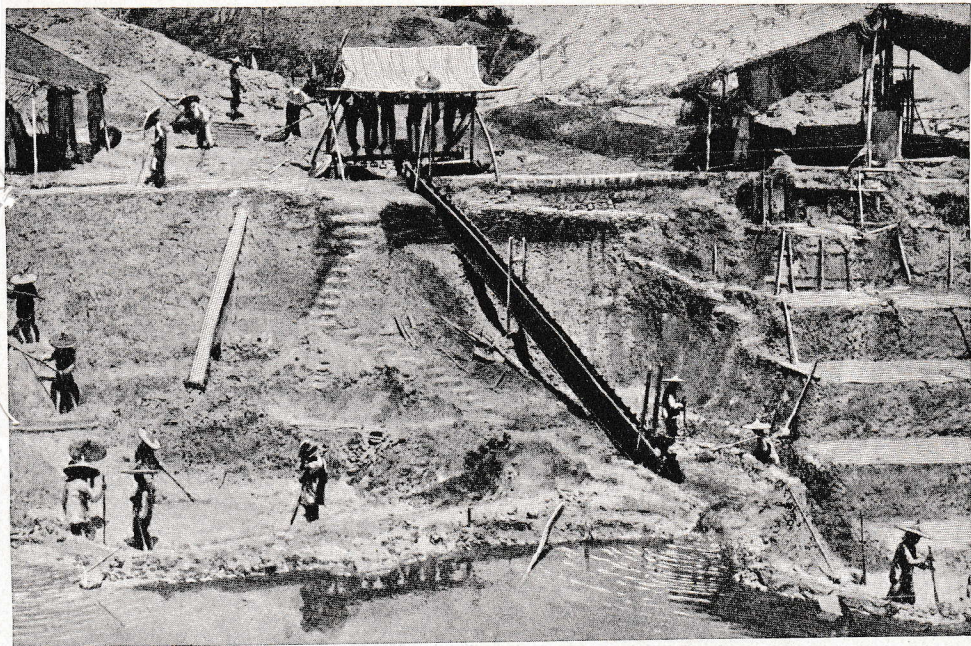
To the stranger the dance must appear decidedly monotonous—a constant repetition of the same gestures and movements ; but the Malays appreciate these efforts on the part of their fellow-countrymen, and the hearty applause from the spectators is echoed and emphasized immediately by the tom-tom players who yell their cries of approval while beating a deafening tattoo on their hollow drums

Photos, Malay States Agency



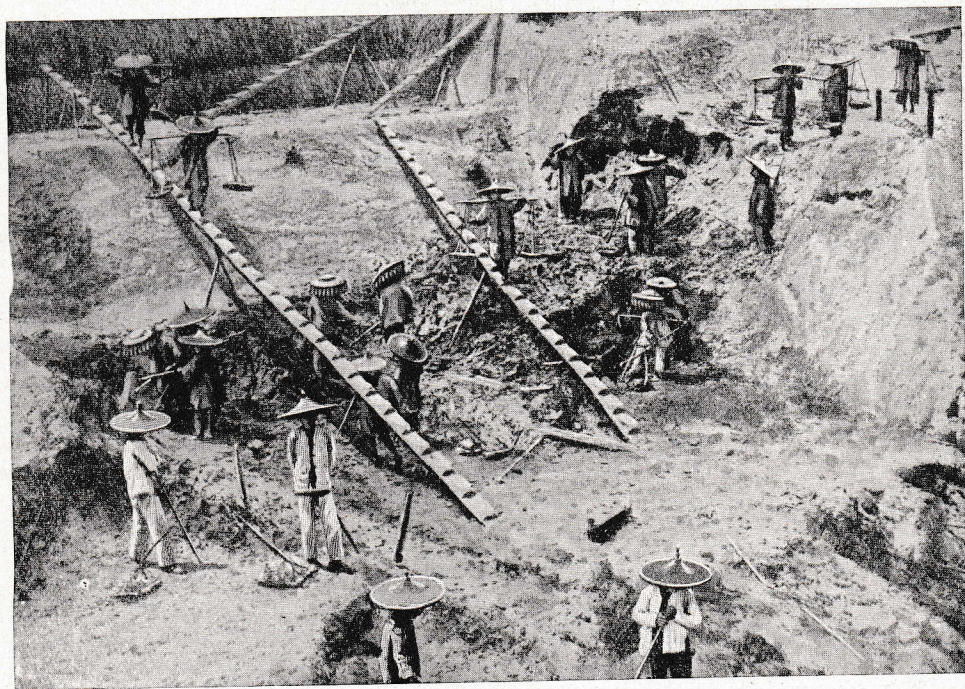
CHINESE COOLIES EXCEL IN THE STRENUOUS LABOUR OF TRENCH TIN-MINING IN THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES
 The alluvial beds on the western side of the Malay Peninsula have since 1890 produced more than half of the world's supply of tin. Perak produces enormous quantities of this silver-white, lustrous metal, and its innumerable opencast tin-mines are worked almost exclusively by Chinese capital and labour. The "lombong," or open-working system is usually pursued. It consists of digging, carrying, and throwing to one side the top soil until the tin-bearing sand is exposed to view

Photo. Malayan States Agency.



COOLIES WORKING A PUMP ON AN OPENCAST MINE

Through a long trough, or sluice, a stream of water is pumped on to the tin-bearing sand; the sand and stones are then raked backwards and forwards with a long-handled species of hoe. The larger stones are thrown to one side, whilst the lighter ones and the sand are carried away by the water; but the tin ore, being of a heavier specific gravity, remains and is collected and stored



SEEKERS OF TIN ORE IN FULL ACTIVITY ON A PERAK MINE

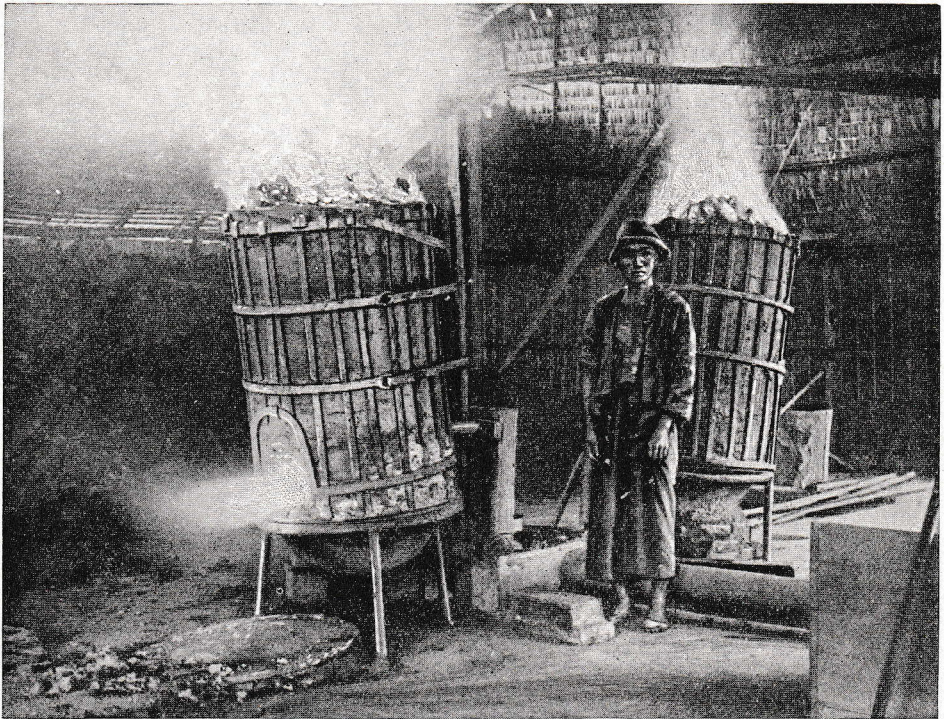
The miners, both men and women, carry away the earth in small oblong baskets, the handles of which are attached by lengths of stiff rattan to a carrying-stick. Placing the stick across his shoulders, the miner ascends the ladder, steadying the baskets to avoid spilling the contents

Photos, Malay States Agency

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they serve. The fact that rubber growers had, for a long time, been producing at a loss, led either to a reduction in wages or in the labour force, or else to the closing of a plantation, and nothing could be more remarkable than the loyalty with which very many of these people recognized the situation and accepted a reduction in their rates of pay. Everything

introduced a great agricultural industry. The appointment of British Residents to advise the Malay rulers in Perak, Selangor, and Negri Sembilan dates from 1874. During the next thirty years it was Chinese capital and Chinese effort, employed in working the rich alluvial tin deposits of these states, which brought into the country this large Chinese population and enabled



SIMPLE CHINESE METHOD OF SMELTING ORE

The cylindrical-shaped furnaces are made of clay, round which sticks are placed perpendicularly and held in position by bands. The tin ore is placed on the top of the charcoal-fed fire, whence, melting, it trickles down through the burning charcoal and out at a small aperture, falling into a clay-lined pan dug in the ground, from which it is removed by ladles and poured into sand moulds, where it cools and solidifies.

Photo, Malay States Agency

possible is done for their health and comfort on the plantations, but however long they remain on the estates, very few make Malaya their permanent home.

The Chinese—who, in 1911, outnumbered even the people of the country—by their enterprise, their industry, and their capital, under the guidance and administration of British Residents, made the Federated States what they were till rubber planting

the Government to raise from them a revenue more than sufficient to pay the costs of administration and to construct all necessary public works, including thousands of miles of excellent roads and a thousand miles of railway. Until 1900, or even later, the Chinese of the Malay States believed only in tin mining, just as the Mauritius planter believes in sugar. Times have changed, and the wave of rubber planting caught the



COOL BUT REMUNERATIVE OCCUPATION OF COOLIE WOMEN

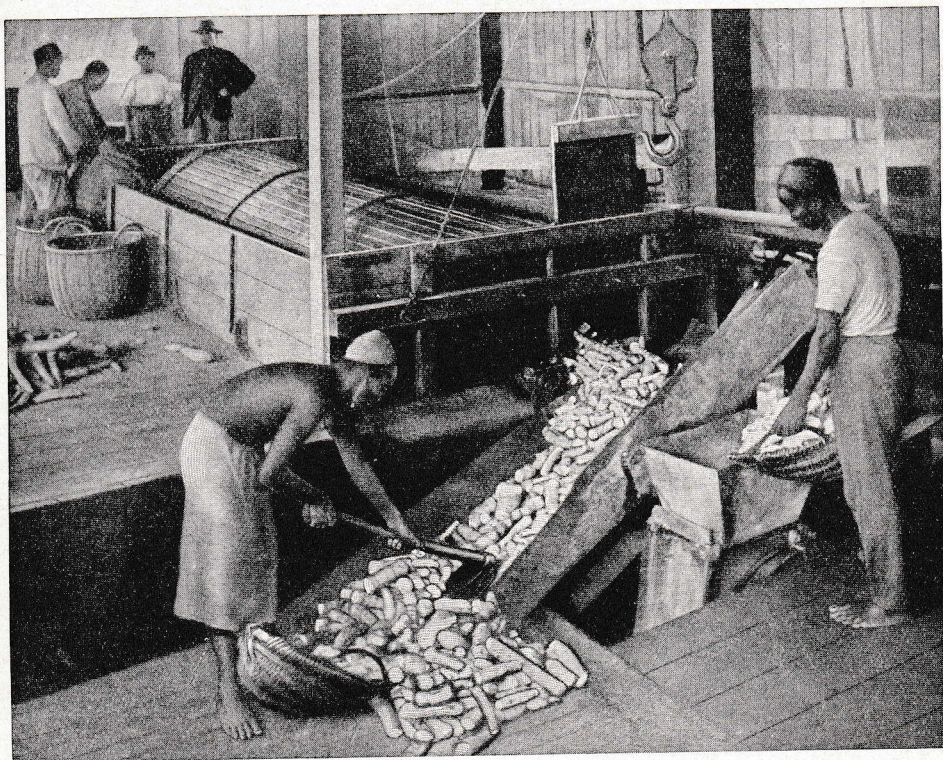
Chinese women obtain fair livelihoods by re-panning and re-washing the "tailings," or refuse heaps of tin-bearing sand, or by sifting the beds of the streams flowing from the mines. Standing in the stream, they scoop up some gravel, wash and pick it, and put aside the residue—perhaps a thimbleful of tin ore. Tin-washing is an industry in itself, and good Chinese washers are valuable acquisitions to a mine

Photo, Malay States Agency



NURTURING THE TAPIOCA-YIELDING PLANT IN MALAYA

Tapioca is a farinaceous substance obtained from the starch of the cassava or manioc plant, a native of South America. Cuttings of this perennial herb are planted at short distances apart, and soon grow to a height of several feet. The yam-like tubers form underneath the ground and usually reach maturity in a little more than a year, when they are uprooted and detached from the stalks



MALAYS CONVERTING POISONOUS ROOTS INTO NUTRITIOUS FOOD

In the factory the manioc roots are peeled and passed through a cylindrical machine in order to extract by pressure the bitter, highly poisonous juice. The roots are then reduced to powder which is placed in vats and mixed with water. A plentiful supply of water is an important requisite in the preparation of tapioca, for much depends upon its being thoroughly clean



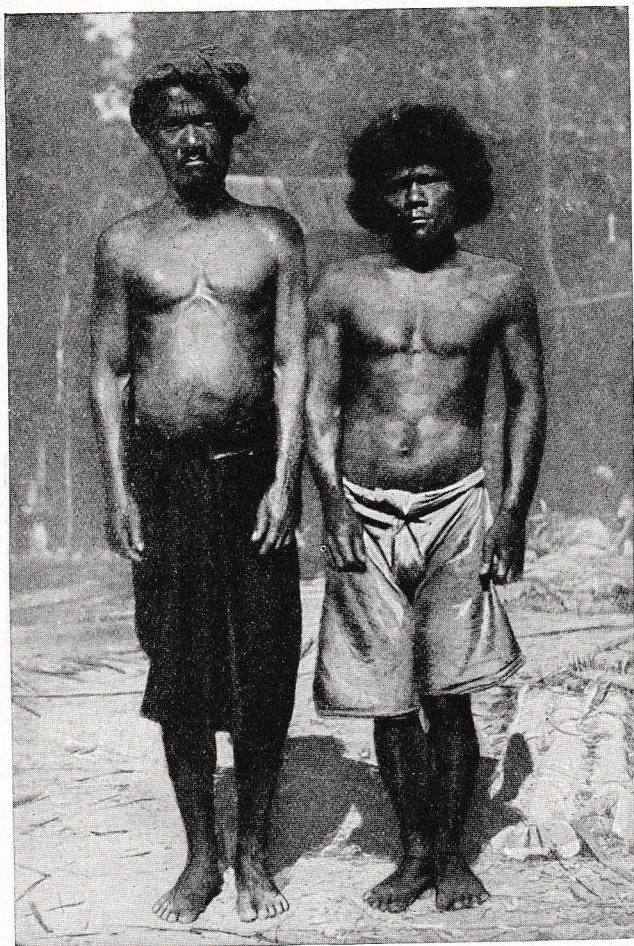
MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK WHEN SIFTING TAPIOCA STARCH

After the juice of the root has been extracted by pressure the residue is carefully dried and sifted, and then baked in pans or on hot plates over a slow fire, thus freeing the flake entirely from the hydrocyanic or prussic acid that it contains. This exposure to heat causes a partial rupture of the starch granules which finally agglomerate into little irregular pellets



TAPIOCA IN FINISHED STATE, READY FOR CULINARY PURPOSES

During the heating process a constant stirring of the cassava starch is necessary. The agglomerated pellets, when cooled, become hard and translucent, and in this condition form the tapioca of commerce. It is interesting to compare these pictures with those on pages 490 to 493, where the primitive methods of the Amazon Indians in the preparation of manioc are illustrated



WILD MEN OF THE WOODS

The Jakuns, with their kinsfolk the Sakais and Semangs, may be regarded as the pygmies of the Malay Peninsula. Formerly they lived entirely aloof in the recesses of the forests, but latterly have associated more freely with settled communities

Photo, Smithsonian Institution

Chinese, who opened large estates of their own, or invested in locally-formed companies. While the well-to-do became owners, many of the labouring class left the mines for the plantations, where they earned higher wages with less effort. There are a few European owners and managers of tin mines worked with machinery on scientific principles, but with these exceptions mining in Malaya is in the hands of Chinese.

Though tin mining and rubber growing give employment to the great bulk of the Chinese population, these industrious people are the principal shopkeepers

and contractors; while Straits-born and Malay States-born Chinese, educated in the schools of the Colony and the Malay States, fill many subordinate posts in the Government service. As intelligent, hardworking, honest citizens of British Malaya, easy and pleasant to deal with, and loyal to the Government of their birth or adoption, the Chinese have won a deservedly high reputation, and their contribution to the public revenues is far higher than that of any other race.

Last, there are the Malays, most important as the real people of the country. They are the owners of the soil, whose numbers have, through unknown generations, waxed and waned, and they have lived their primitive and often picturesque lives hidden from the world, desiring nothing so much as to be left alone in undisputed possession of their beautiful country. While foreigners—barring a few thousands of adventurous Chinese—knew nothing of these people, perpetual

strife and disease so reduced their numbers that in several states they were approaching extinction. In 1874, for the protection of the British Settlements and at the earnest request of several of the Malay chiefs, the then Governor of the Straits Colony departed from the old policy of non-interference, and took steps which led to the appointment of British Residents to advise the Malay rulers in the development and administration, first of the western states, and, later, of all the states south of Siam, excepting only Patani. The Malay's characteristics are, in a

measure, the reflection of his environment. He is suave and courteous, like the zephyr which so constantly stirs the leaves of his orchard as he sits idly dreaming in the sunshine on the bank of one of his many beautiful and clear-watered rivers. In rare cases he is dangerous and desperate like the Sumatra whirlwind, which rises suddenly and in a space of minutes destroys everything in its path. That is the state of mind which leads to *meng-âmok*, a form of homicidal mania in which the demented one neither gives nor asks for quarter. Fortunately, this phase is rare, and every year it seems to grow less frequent, possibly because early signs of a tendency to mania are noticed now and steps are taken to place the subject of them under control. Indeed, this curious state of frenzy is only mentioned here because the old tradition was that all Malays were liable to *meng-âmok*, and that it was common among and peculiar to that people.

In many ways the Malay differs widely from other Easterns. The reason may be that, until recently, he lived apart and saw no foreigners except Chinese, and those only in a few mines or villages near the coast. What made him the innate gentleman he is would be hard to say, for the real origin of the Malay race is unknown, though there are strong probabilities that the people who in the course of centuries have spread over Sumatra, Java, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, came originally from India. Life in or on the borders of pathless jungles infested by dangerous wild beasts made him a sportsman;



STURDY WIVES OF A PYGMY RACE

A wild, primitive race of Negritos, the Jakuns have been driven from pillar to post by the more masterful Malay. Their women-folk now frequently intermarry with the Malays, and the Jakun population is slowly but surely dying out

Photo, Smithsonian Institution

and the use of rivers and the sea as his only means of getting about in comparative comfort made him a most skilful boatman and a marvellous swimmer and diver.

His main characteristic is an objection to continuous hard work; the climate and the soil encourage him in the belief that life can be supported with little effort, and he accepts the facts. In a climate where it is never really cold, where the means of making a wood fire are at hand, and where the materials for a suitable dwelling can be easily collected at small expense, life for the unambitious is never really hard for

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those in health. An acre or two of rice, less than that of orchard, and a river which supplies all the water needed and fish as well, make anything like starvation impossible. With a mean temperature of about 85 degrees, two garments for men or women—often only one—and none for children, keep down the cost of clothing. Malays are Mahomedans and do not drink intoxicants, but they smoke tobacco in the form of native or imported cigarettes, and that is almost their only luxury. The above applies only to the poorest class, though nearly all are landowners. They cultivate the soil in a very rude way, grow rice and coconuts and the many and excellent Malay fruits, and if there is a surplus they sell it and buy better clothes and little luxuries. Those who

live on the coast are skilful fishermen, and for the rest, a few keep small shops, or do odd jobs, at which they earn good wages by a short but violent effort.

The Malay is a strong, well-built, pleasant-looking person of charming manners, and when he feels inclined he can perform miracles of effort and endurance. Money does not often induce him to this endeavour, but the sporting instinct, or the desire to please someone he likes or respects, will bring out all his best qualities. To British men with wide sympathies the Malay is a very lovable person when they know him and he knows them.

The Malay upper classes are the same, only they have ambitions. They like office and titles and money, and all that it can buy. They are often highly



MALAY HOUSE ON PILES AND SOME OF ITS YOUTHFUL INHABITANTS

Malay houses are elevated some few feet off the ground and made accessible by steps. Every small house is divided into three parts with a narrow veranda in front. Strangers seldom pass beyond this veranda. Tacked on behind is a small room used as a kitchen; through the interstices in its plank floor the careless Malays throw rice skimmings, fishbones, and other refuse

Photo, M. S. Nakajima



COMMON COOKHOUSE IN A MALAY UP-COUNTRY VILLAGE

There is often a little shed in the village compound that shelters a fireplace and serves as the communal kitchen. Here is stored a motley collection of cooking utensils, chief among them being the cauldrons used by the Malay women to make their favourite sweet cakes of jaggery—a sugar obtained by inspissation from the sap of the palm trees that grow around

intelligent; almost always pleasant companions, hospitable, open-handed, and, when young, very extravagant. Like their womenfolk, they are fond of smart clothes and all sorts of entertainments, Malay and European. There is as much love-making, legitimate and otherwise, among the Malays as elsewhere in the East, and it leads to the same tragedies and comedies as in other parts of the world. Though the Malays

are Mahomedans, they are neither very strict in religious observances nor very bigoted in regard to other faiths. Their women have considerable liberty, and that is fortunate, for Malay women have attractions of which a gift for clever talk and a pretty wit are perhaps the chief. They have influence, too, even outside their own circle, and it is a great privilege and an education for either a European or a Malay to be on

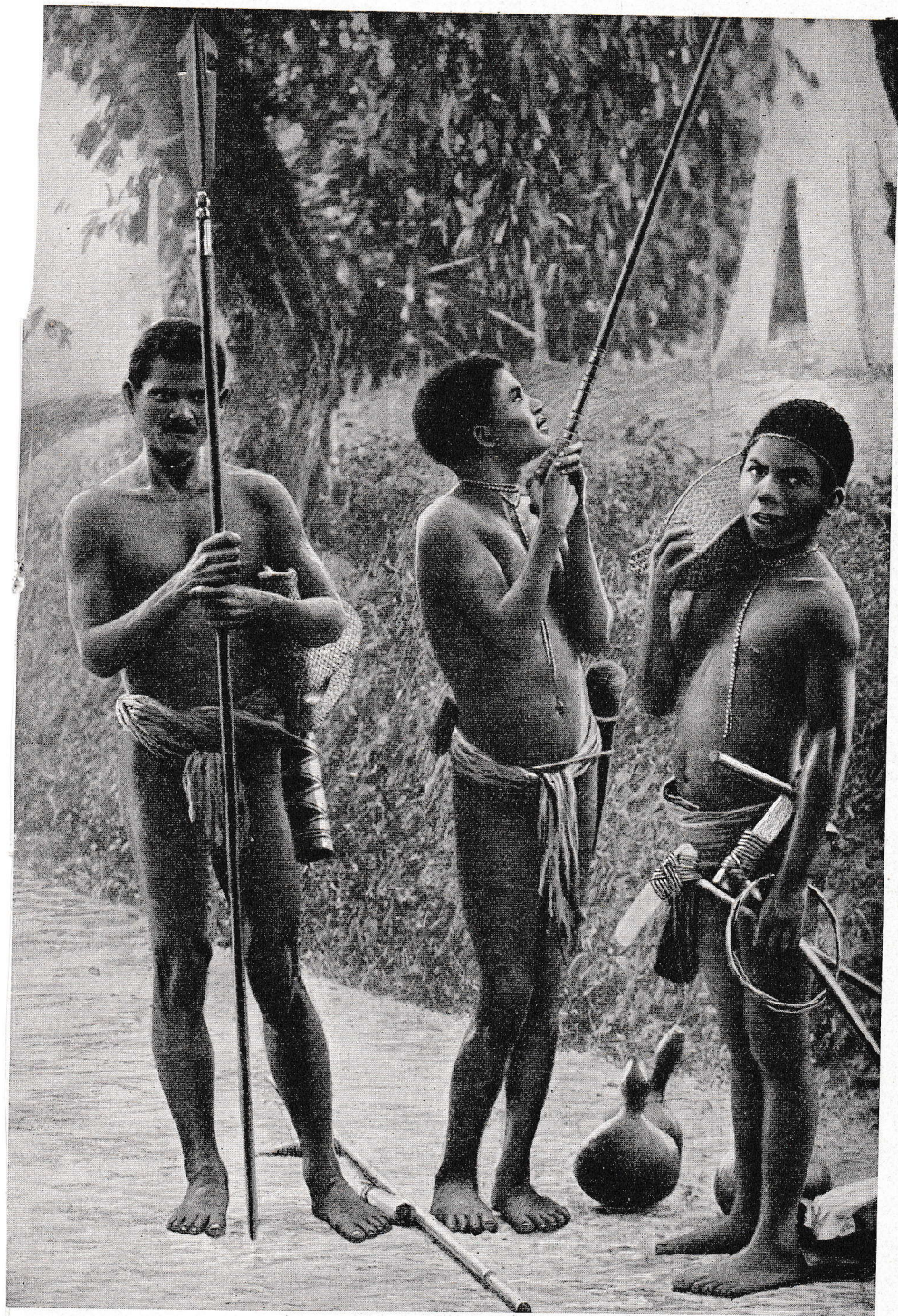


MALAY STATES ABORIGINES EQUIPPED FOR THE CHASE

In former years the Sakais kept strictly to the mountains, where they found protection from the marauding Malay. Wild and untamed, they shunned the stranger, and were very little better than the savage animals amongst which they dwelt. Recently, finding that their persecution had ceased, many have come down and settled in the lower valleys, where they are acquiring the rudiments of civilization and the delights of opium smoking

terms of friendship with a great Malay lady. Malay children, especially the boys, are often most attractive, both in appearance and in manners; it is a sad fact that the almost angelic atmosphere by which these children are surrounded is transient, and seldom remains with them beyond the age of fifteen.

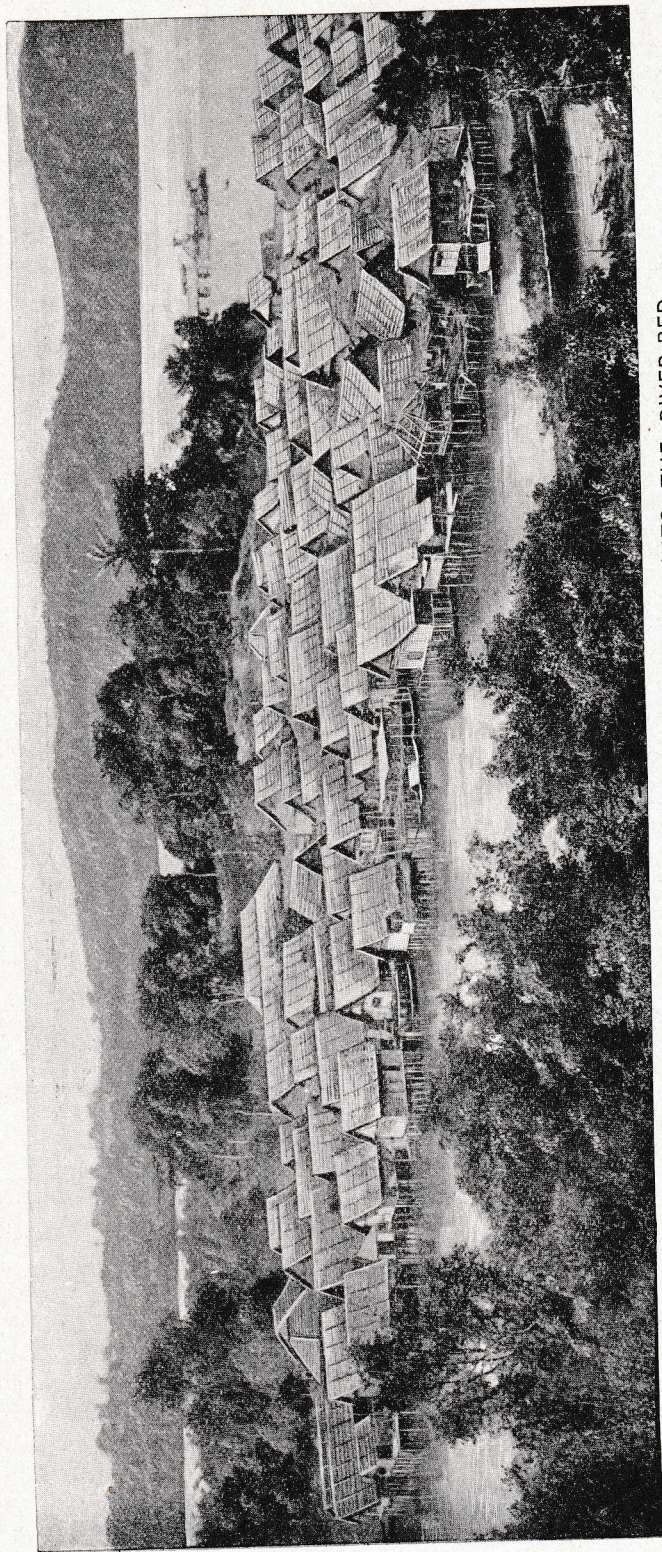
To describe adequately the arts of the Malays, men and women, would need a volume. As workers in gold, silver, and steel, the men have been pre-eminent among Far-Eastern people, and a few may still be found in Perak, Trengganu, Kelantan, and Kedah. As weavers of silk or silk and gold fabrics, the women



DESCENDANTS OF THE ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF MALAYA

The Sakais are a pure, unmixed branch of the Melanesian race, and quite distinct from the Malays. Among the Perak hills they are still to be found roaming at large, trapping and eating any kind of animal, and never without the long, wooden blow-pipe, or "sumpitan," through which they blow poison-tipped arrows. Their stone axes closely resemble similar implements in use in the Stone Age

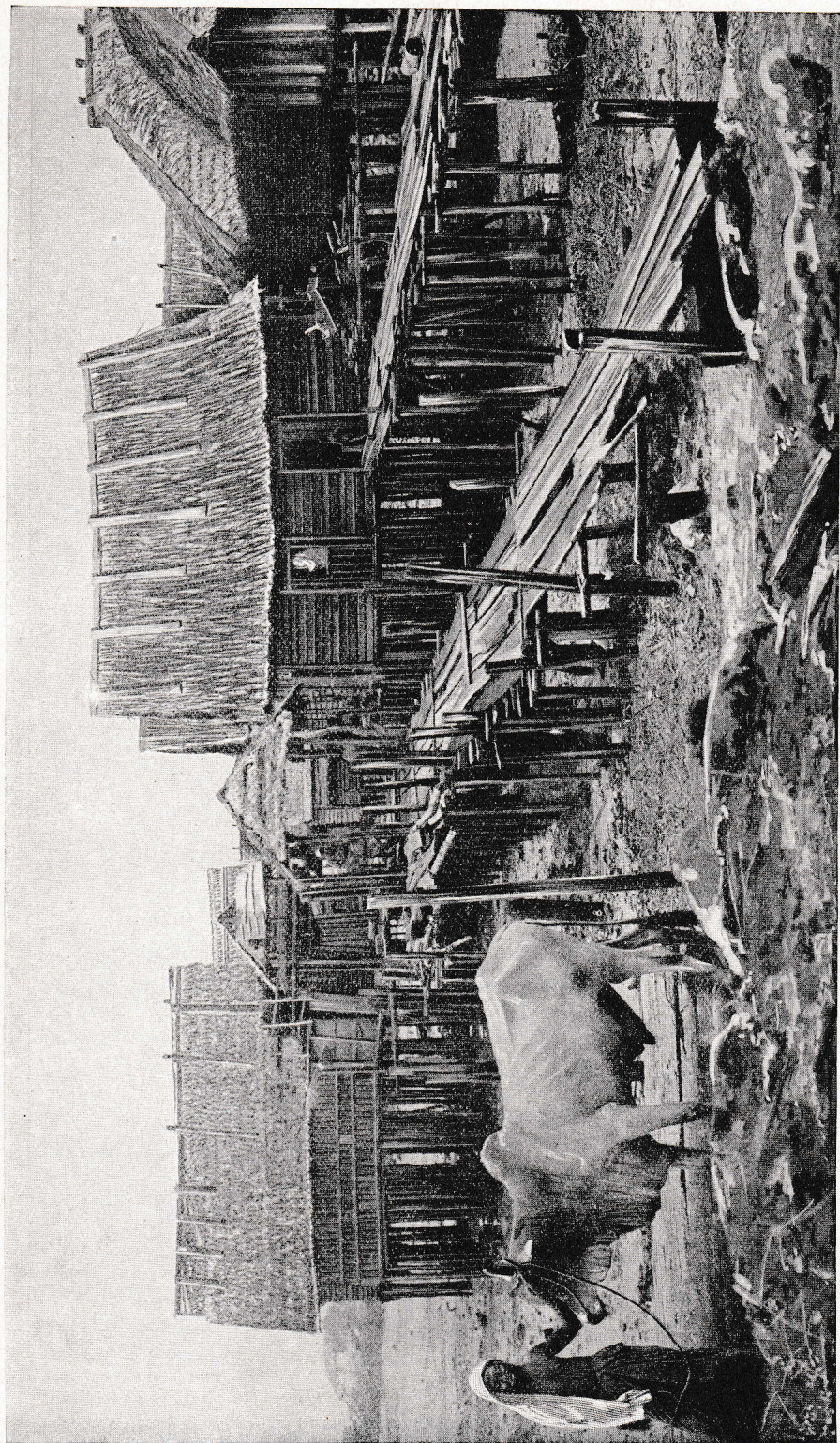
Photo, Miss C. J. Hunter



MALAYAN NATIVE VILLAGE BUILT ON PILES DRIVEN INTO THE RIVER-BED

Some of the Malay coast villages present a picturesque appearance, the huts—like so many compact little dolls' houses—straggling off the land straight into the water, as though they had walked there on stilts. "Here fishes swim to the breakfast-table" is the proud boast of the inhabitants of this watery retreat, and they add that they are the cleanest people in the world, for they have "merely to step out of bed to plunge into the bath."

of Trengganu, Kelantan, Pahang, and Johore are still unrivalled, though it is necessary to go to the houses of the Rajas to find the best of them. Kedah is famous for the exquisitely fine boxes and baskets plaited from the inner fibre of the pandanus leaf, and coarser varieties of the same are made in Malacca. The smiths of Patani and Trengganu used to be famous throughout Malaya for their spears and the kris, with its snake-like blade, while Perak and Kedah produced less warlike implements. To-day there is no market for these wares, and the Malay is probably losing his gift for beautiful form and marvellous colour schemes. The potential worker in precious metals is probably a school-master or a Government clerk, while the man who would have produced the finest specimens of native weapons is driving a



SIMPLICITY AND INGENUITY COMBINE IN THE PILE AND THATCH ARCHITECTURE OF MALAY CREEK DWELLERS
Malays live by preference near water and build their fishing villages in this rough and ready style. Thanks to the countless firmly-planted stakes, the huts are of amazing durability, access being gained to them by means of a succession of planks ranged so as to form bridge-paths. Other houses are built out over the water and supported only by stout piles, while along the coast there are small homes which have one foot on land and one in the sea

Photo, G. R. Lambert & Co.



MALAY NATIVE COLLECTING THE SWEET WINE OF THE TODDY PALM

Equipped with cans and quiver of primitive tools, he is in readiness to collect his favourite toddy—the sap or juice that flows from the incised spathes of certain palm trees. Toddy is widely used in Malaya as a beverage, and in India is employed instead of yeast; when boiled it yields jaggery, or palm sugar and sugar candy; fermented and distilled, it yields the spirit known as arrack



THE SIMPLE LIFE AS SEEN IN A MALAY VILLAGE

A Malay cottage is usually the embodiment of untidiness, but there has been a marked improvement of late years in respect of hygiene. No furniture cumbers the interior, nor is any attempt made at decoration. The plank floor is covered with rush-woven mats, and the well-ventilated walls are of interlaced strips of bark. Ducks and fowls wander about the courtyard, and broody hens sit on nests beneath the houses

motor-car. If, ages ago, the ancestors of the Malays found their way to the peninsula from India, by way of Sumatra, there are a few hundreds of aborigines still occupying the remotest fastnesses of those forests and hills which have escaped the rubber planter, the railway, or other sign of the pushing white man. There are at least two distinct tribes or species of these wild people: one distinctly negrito, short, dark people, with woolly heads, and the other taller, fairer, with long, slightly waving hair. The former are called Semang and the latter Sakai. Both peoples lead a wandering life,

living in leaf shelters, in trees or in caves while waiting for the harvest of some field of hill rice which they have planted. They have their own languages and customs, and in neither case is there any resemblance to those of the Malay. Spirit worshippers, their burial ceremonies include provision of food and drink for the soul to feed on after death, and the Sakais further erect a little house on piles beside the grave for its occupation. They are very timid, quite harmless, and, except as a study for scientists, their presence in the peninsula is almost unrecognized.



CHILDREN BORN WITH SILVER SPOONS IN THEIR MOUTHS

Exquisite silk and satin fabrics are woven in many of the Malay States; many houses possess looms, and weaving is a favourite occupation of the women of all classes. The children of high-class and prosperous parents wear sarongs and jackets of beautifully coloured and finely woven materials, and quite small girls possess their own sets of jewels, consisting of many and varied precious ornaments

British Empire in Asia

VI. Planting Outposts of Empire in the Eastern Seas

By Demetrius C. Boulger

Author of "The Story of India"

THE quest of the Indies—the vaguely defined region whence had come from ancient days the silks and the spices, the gems and the treasure, that reached the Mediterranean overland through Syria and Egypt—was the dream and aspiration of all the maritime nations of Europe throughout the fifteenth century, and to Henry the Navigator of Portugal must be assigned the credit of the first successes in the search before 1450. The great triumphs of his two fellow countrymen—Bartholomew Diaz in 1486 in discovering, and Vasco da Gama in 1497 in rounding, the Cape of Good Hope—were the natural sequel to the Navigator's voyages along the west coast of Africa. But da Gama's discoveries were not confined to the sea. He was the first European to reach, in a European ship, the mainland of India in the year 1498.

While the Portuguese looked southwards for the solution of the problem, it was natural that other peoples should turn their attention to the West, and some time before the Portuguese success two Italians had independently conceived the idea that the route should be sought westwards across the great ocean of the classical authors. One, Christopher Columbus, asked and obtained the patronage of the King of Spain in his design; the other, John Cabot, obtained that of Henry VII. of England.

The Great Quest of the Indies

The results of their contemporaneous voyages were not less remarkable and epoch-making than da Gama's, for they discovered the great continent of America—Columbus in his four voyages between 1492 and 1502; John Cabot in his single voyage to Newfoundland in 1497. But so far as the quest of the Indies was involved they had failed. Portugal, and after 1580 her associate Spain, held the monopoly of trade and dominion in Asia, which da Gama had acquired for them, until the close of the sixteenth century.

Material success rested then in the first place and for many years with the Portuguese. Their great Viceroy, Albuquerque, took Goa in 1510, and made it the centre of a dominion which extended from Hormuz, in the Persian Gulf, to the coast of China. They not only enjoyed possession, but they denied access to

others, straining the prerogative that discovery meant exclusive possession to the extreme limits of arbitrary power. After the incorporation of Portugal with Spain, this policy of monopoly became intensified, and Philip II. demanded the punishment of the English adventurers who had begun to encroach on what he called his "divine rights." Then it was that Queen Elizabeth made her proud retort that "What Spaniards did it was lawful for Englishmen to do also, since the sea and the air were the common property of all men."

Singeing the Spaniard's Beard

The Portuguese and Spaniards with their formidable guardships closed the gate to the East by the Cape of Good Hope, but they could not prevent English mariners of the West Country from sallying forth to levy toll on the ships that carried the rich cargoes from the Indies, West and East. The toll was levied not merely on the high seas, but in the ports of Spain herself. These proceedings were designated "singeing the Spaniard's beard," but the first event that convinced Englishmen that they would yet acquire their full share of the trade and the dominion in spite of their rivals' veto was Drake's circumnavigation of the world in 1577-80.

Although he did not touch India or any other part of the Asiatic mainland, he brought back full accounts of the Celebes and Java, and in the hold of his ship, the *Golden Hind*, lay over a million pounds' worth of plunder as proof of what might be won. What Francis Drake began, Thomas Cavendish continued. In 1587 he flew St. George's Cross for the first time at the mouth of the Canton river, and bearded the Portuguese in the roadstead of their Far Eastern emporium of Macao. Yet these episodes might have borne small fruit if Spain had not submitted all her pretensions to the hazard of a single throw by the invincible Armada, and lost them with its destruction. The true starting point of the rise of the British Empire in Asia, then, was the overthrow of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Having thus cleared the way, it only remained for the English to take advantage of the Cape route. But their expeditions did not begin well. In 1591 the first three ships sailed, but never returned. The second

BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA

expedition of 1596 was even more unfortunate. Fitted out at the expense of Sir Robert Dudley, and bearing a letter from Queen Elizabeth to the Emperor of China, nothing whatever was heard of its fate. It may be noted that China, rather than India, was the first objective of the English trader, and the main desire of the merchant adventurers of London long continued to be to gain a footing in the Spice Islands. That desire was intensified when the Dutch, who had taken advantage of the great naval victory of 1588 to establish themselves in Java and found their own East India Company, rather ungratefully doubled the price of pepper in 1599.

Rise of the Merchant Adventurers

The immediate reply of the City of London was to form an Association of Merchant Adventurers. Queen Elizabeth gave her approbation to the undertaking, and on December 31st, 1600, granted them a Royal Charter as the London East India Company. Their first expedition, composed of five ships, under the command of Captain James Lancaster, did not sail till February, 1601, and its principal success was to establish the first English factory in Asia at Bantam, in the island of Java. It also established friendly relations with the King of Achin, the northern province of Sumatra.

In the first stage of its activities the Company concentrated on the island groups rather than on the mainland and, although India figured prominently in its title, it was to Java and the Celebes that the adventurers mainly looked as their field of enterprise. A second voyage proved equally successful, and a close alliance was formed with the King of Bantam. The head of the Bantam factory became known as the President of the English Factories in the East Indies. But Dutch rivalry proved keen and ruthless. An English squadron was destroyed by the Hollanders off the coast of Sumatra, and the barbarous massacre of Amboyna in 1623 sullied Dutch fame. At last, in 1683, the Company, with a wider horizon opening before it in India, withdrew its agents and property to Surat.

Britain's Foot Planted in India

Before that year, however, it had made its first appearance in India. While the mariners had been exploring the seas, more than one Englishman had reached India overland. In 1583 Ralph Fitch, of the Levant Company, travelling by the Euphrates Valley, and in a native ship from the Persian Gulf, reached Goa, where the Portuguese promptly locked him up. Having succeeded in escaping, he continued his tour, visited Bengal and

Burma, and returned to London in 1591. The direct sequel of his tour was the dispatch of the two missions sent by James I. under Captain Hawkins in 1608 and Sir Thomas Roe in 1616 to the Court of the Great Mogul. As the consequence of the earlier of those missions, the company acquired its first factory in India, at Surat, in 1612, quickly followed by subordinate ones at Anjengo, Masulipatam, and Madras. The first sovereign possession was, however, the island of Bombay, which Charles II. received as the dowry of his bride, Catherine of Braganza, and to that acquisition must be traced the origin of Britain's secular power in India.

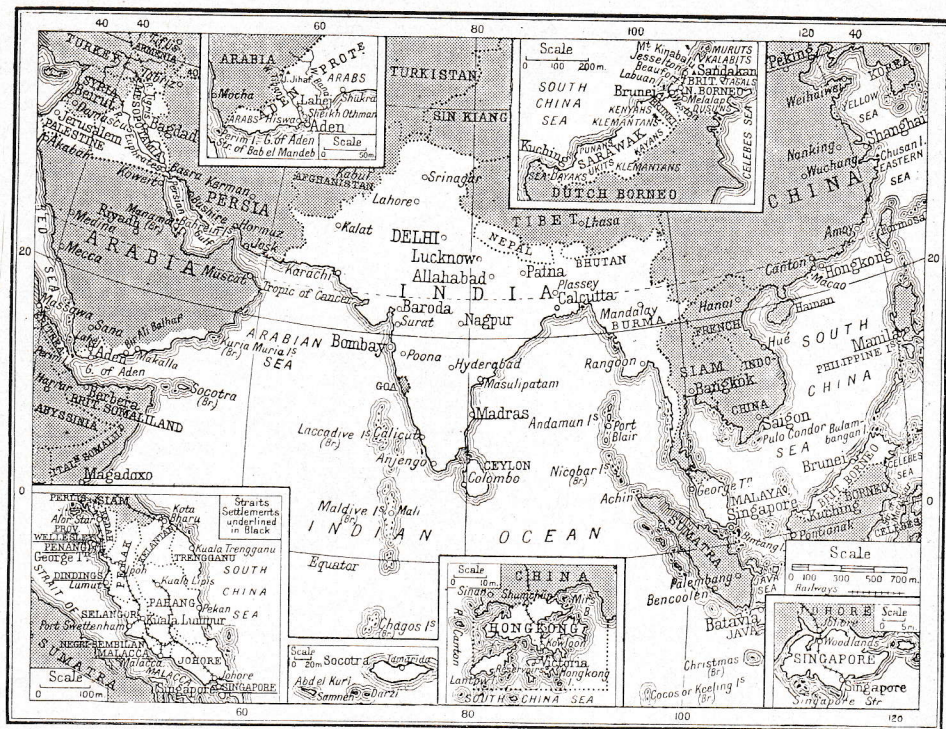
The Company's main efforts, however, were still directed to the acquisition of insular stations, rather than of permanent footholds on the mainland. Factories were established at Bencoolen in Sumatra, Banjermasin in Borneo, Pulo Condor and Chusan in the China Sea, and Hirardo in Japan. One after the other these stations were abandoned or dropped, generally through the hostility or jealousy of the Dutch, but the hope of tapping the trade of China remained undiminished.

During fifty years more or less vain attempts were made to secure permission to trade at Canton, and at the end of the seventeenth century the only British factory in China was at Amoy. By an Imperial edict in Kanghi's reign, foreign traders were allowed to visit Canton and Amoy, but in the year 1755 this privilege was further limited by the Emperor Keen Lung to Canton alone. At that date all Britain's efforts to establish herself in any sort of security at Canton had completely failed owing to the unfriendly intrigues of the Portuguese at Macao.

Chinese Hostility to Foreign Traders

Lord Macartney's Embassy was sent to Peking in 1792 with the special object of obtaining better facilities for trade at Canton, but any improvement attributable to that effort disappeared when the British occupied Macao in 1808, believing that it was a Portuguese possession instead of a mere leasehold. The Chinese authorities boycotted Britain for violating their territory, and the British admiral sailed away without firing a shot after inspecting the Bogue forts, the Chinese defences in the Bocca Tigris. Britain's evacuation of Macao and the withdrawal of her ships left her merchants at liberty to come to the best terms they could with the Hoppo, or trade commissioner.

In 1834 the East India Company lost its monopoly of the China trade. Lord Napier was sent out by the Government to superintend the trade with China, in the foolish belief that the Chinese authorities were hostile to the Company rather than



BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA AND ITS PEOPLES

to trade with foreigners. He accordingly hastened to Canton, persuaded that he would be welcomed as the representative of the British Government. He was quickly disillusioned, for the Chinese, conceiving that his mission was as much political as commercial, refused to hold any relations at all with him, and suspended the trade until he had taken himself back to Macao. At this critical juncture two considerations weighed uppermost with the Chinese authorities: the import of opium and the export of silver through the adverse balance of trade. Shortly after Lord Napier's departure they took the law into their own hands and destroyed the opium in the British factory. The merchants were compelled to leave Canton and find what shelter they could in Macao. Their residence being deemed perilous to the Portuguese after the outbreak of hostilities, they removed to the island of Hongkong, opposite Macao.

This removal, regarded as only a temporary measure in 1839, proved highly beneficial. Hongkong possessed an excellent natural harbour for ships, and the climate was salubrious. After the destruction of the Bogue Forts in January, 1841, the Chinese authorities at Canton were constrained to cede possession of the island to Britain by a Convention, confirmed later by the Central Government in one of the Articles of the Treaty of Nanking, in August, 1842.

The island of Hongkong, in the estuary of the Canton River, is one of the Ladrões—a name given to the group by the Portuguese, because they were the haunt of pirates—and lies about ninety miles east of the city of Canton. In 1860, by the Treaty of Peking, the area of the original grant was increased by the cession on the same terms of Kowloon on the mainland, and still further in June, 1898, but on different terms, when a lease for ninety-nine years was made to Britain of a large tract of Chinese territory on the mainland, including the Isle of Lantau. This grant was the more important because it included maritime rights over the waters at the back of Hongkong. Various schemes are in active progress for the development of this territory. Land is being reclaimed from the sea, a new town has been built at Kowloon, the needs of the boating and fishing population have been provided for. The population of the settlement is rapidly increasing both naturally and by immigration from China.

The capital of the island of Hongkong is the city of Victoria, beautifully situated on the shore, and along the range of hills that look down on the magnificent natural harbour. Of the total European population more than half is British; of the remainder not less than two-thirds are Portuguese. On account of its strategic position, natural advantages for trade,

and as a naval station, Hongkong is Britain's most important possession in the Far East.

Britain's connexion with and interest in Borneo, the largest island in the world, after Australia and New Guinea, goes back to the very beginning of her enterprises in the East. The factories at Sukadana, 1610, and Banjarmasin, 1614, were among the first established by the Company, but after many vicissitudes, including their transfer to Balambangan, a small island off its north coast, the attempt to make Borneo the head centre of these activities was abandoned. It is true that during his Governorship of the Dutch possessions in 1811-15, Sir Stamford Raffles sought to stimulate British interest in the island, but his views found no support. Still, they bore fruit eventually, for when Raja Brooke sailed for Brunei in 1839, it was, he declared, for the purpose of carrying out the programme of Stamford Raffles. His ostensible mission was to aid the Sultan Muda against his rebellious subjects, but he aimed at smashing the power of the Dayak pirates as the preliminary to assured peace.

The White Raja of Sarawak

His success in the first part of his task was complete and immediate, and in reward for his services the Sultan bestowed upon him the district of Sarawak in 1843. His final triumph over the Dayaks was not accomplished till six years later when, with the cooperation of Sir Harry Keppel, he sank a hundred prahus in a single well-contested action. In his life Raja Brooke met with much detraction, but his work remains undisturbed, and even increased by subsequent additions of territory, eighty years after he laid the corner-stone of what may be termed the greatest individual achievement in State-making of the nineteenth century. In 1888 the second Raja of the Brooke family accepted the British protectorate for the external relations of his State, which with that qualification remains independent and autonomous.

Britain Acquires the Key to the Far East

In 1848 the island of Labuan on the north-west coast of Borneo was declared a Crown colony, and it was long regarded as one of the most important British coaling stations in those seas. In 1878 Sir Alfred Dent obtained an important concession in the province of Sabah from the Sultan of Sulu. This and other concessions were incorporated in a company which received a Royal Charter in 1882 under the title of the North Borneo Company. It was granted and still maintains administrative autonomy, which was only qualified in 1888 to the extent of placing its external relations under the

control of the British Government, as was done at the same time in regard to Sarawak.

Another great island of the Eastern Seas, Sumatra, was the scene of some of Britain's earliest efforts to expand her trade and influence, but she withdrew from it by treaty in 1824 with the Dutch on the principle of an exchange of territory. She surrendered the island and acquired Malacca, thus placing her in undisturbed possession of the opposite mainland, to which she had been strangely indifferent. Her first possession there, Penang, had been acquired in 1785 in peculiar circumstances. Captain Francis Light, a naval explorer, had married the King of Kedah's daughter, and received this island as her dowry. Wisely thinking that the charge was too heavy for him, he transferred his acquisition to the East India Company, being appointed in return its first Governor, whereupon the settlement was renamed Prince of Wales' Island in honour of the future George IV.

Before Malacca passed permanently into the hands of Britain in 1824—she had twice occupied it temporarily during the Napoleonic epoch—the outstanding step of occupying the island of Singapore at the extreme southern point of the Malay peninsula had assured not merely the future of her trade with the Far East, but the predominance of her influence over the whole of Malaysia. The key to the Far East then passed into British hands, to the lasting fame of its courageous and far-seeing founder, Sir Stamford Raffles.

Romance of Imperial Expansion

The circumstances in which Singapore was acquired belong to the romance of Imperial expansion. It was a race between the British and the Dutch, who were already installed in the island of Rhio, and it was won for Britain by Raffles in despite of dull officials at Calcutta and duller politicians in London. For some years its development was crabbed by the local jealousies of Penang and Malacca, but all the time its founder remained unshaken in his optimism, and to-day no one doubts that Singapore, commanding the sea route to China and the Pacific, supplies an essential joint in the framework of Britain's world system. The successive dates of the transactions connected with its acquisition were as follows: Union Jack hoisted by Sir Stamford Raffles January 29th, 1819; concession acquired from the Sultan of Johore by Sir Stamford June 26th, 1819; and a formal cession with all sovereign rights of the island and part of the mainland by treaty with the same prince signed August 2nd, 1824.

From the time of its occupation down to the Indian Mutiny, Singapore was

BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA

joined with Penang and Malacca in a single Governorship as the Straits Settlements, and formed part of the possessions of the East India Company. After its fall they were still subject to the Indian Government. But in 1867 it was decided to transfer them to the control of the Colonial Office as a Crown colony. The Straits Settlements are now composed of Singapore, Penang (including Wellesley province and the Dindings), and Malacca, to which were added in 1886 the Cocos Islands, in 1889 Christmas Island, and in 1907 Labuan.

British control of the entire Malay peninsula is established beyond dispute and in a formal manner by clear conventions and treaties. The peninsula is divided among two distinct groups of sultans and other chiefs.

The first group, termed the Federated Malay States, is composed of the four Sultanates of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, and Pahang. These states had been pacified by Sir Andrew Clarke in 1874, but the formal treaty assigning them the positions they were to fill in the Federation was not signed until July, 1896. By that treaty a Resident-General resides at Kuala Lumpur, and a Resident in each of the capitals of the Sultanates. The development in the prosperity of this

region has been unsurpassed in any other quarter of the world since 1890. The revenue has more than doubled, and the population now does not fall short of a million.

The second group is designated the Non-Federated Malay States. Of these there are five, viz., Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, and Trengganu. With the first of these Britain has had relations since the occupation of Singapore, and on several occasions her local authorities had occasion to intervene in the affairs of the ruling family. The position was regularised by a treaty in 1885 which was supplemented by another in 1914. In regard to Johore the situation was not complicated by any outside pretensions.

Over the four others Siam claimed suzerain rights. With Kedah Britain had more or less continuous relations after the acquisition of Penang, but the others lay outside her influence, until the development of Pahang brought her to the eastern coast. After long and delicate negotiations Siam ceded her rights of suzerainty over these states to Britain by treaty in 1909, thus putting an end to all risk of complications and disputes. Britain then assumed the position towards them from which Siam had withdrawn. The Sultans were left undisturbed in their respective autonomies,



FRESH NUTS FOR SALE IN KAJANG

As here exposed for sale the familiar, hard, woody-shelled coconuts are still within the thick, fibrous husks, twelve to eighteen inches in length, in which the fruit matures in bunches of ten or more. The kernel and the milky juice of the nuts are important items of the native dietary

Photo, Malay States Agency

BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA

but they agreed to receive the assistance of a British official under the designation of a General Adviser.

We reach another and a different scene in the coast of Arabia, with three distinct sea fronts, towards the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Persian Gulf. The Persian Gulf represents one of the most fruitful scenes of British activity for three centuries. It began with the Shirley brothers, who helped the great Shah Abbas to expel the Portuguese from Hormuz. In the nineteenth century Britain cleared it of pirates, and then completed her task by aiding navigation with lighthouses and buoys. In the twentieth she has established a Persian Gulf Protectorate which some day or other will serve as a rallying point for the Middle East. The bulk of the trade is already in British hands. The Political Resident at Bushire is the decisive authority in all questions affecting navigation and piracy.

The Islands of Bahrein, the reputed original home of the Phoenicians, may be regarded as the centre of Britain's power, which reposes on naval supremacy. This group of eight islets lies halfway up the gulf, on the Arab coast, and is ruled by a Sheikh, who is a vassal of Britain. His nominal capital is Manama, where an Agent resides, but the Sheikh himself lives on the minor island of Muharrak.

"Seas sow'd with Orient Pearls"

Bahrein is the centre of the pearl fishing industry of the gulf, and the bulk of the exports, nearly a million sterling, are sent to Bombay. In addition, Bahrein possesses a vigorous local industry in boat-building. It is also the principal distributing centre for goods from Bombay to the interior of Arabia. Several old treaties with the chiefs along the coast

from Koweit to Muscat ensure to Britain the right of intervention in their internal quarrels and for the general peace. Under these privileges the Persians were prevented from seizing Bahrein in 1869, and the Turks from laying hands on Koweit in 1875 and since.

There remains Aden, with its dependencies. An Arab station and place of call long before Europeans appeared in the Eastern seas, Aden was discovered but not utilised by the Portuguese, although they found there the remains of artificial water reservoirs going back over 3,000 years. In 1799 Britain had occupied the islet of Perim in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb as a temporary measure in connexion with the expedition to Egypt, but she ignored Aden on that occasion.

Safeguarding Aden's Outward Walls

When she did take possession of it, in 1839, the idea was to turn it into a fortified naval station and place of call for her men-of-war. This was speedily accomplished, and Aden was rendered fairly secure against naval attack. When events made it necessary to look to the land side, she concluded an arrangement in April, 1905, with the Porte, demarcating the frontiers, and at the same time determining the boundary of the hinterland from Sheikh Murad, on the Red Sea, to the Bana River and the Great Desert.

A second convention in 1914 prolonged this boundary through the desert to a point on the shore of the Persian Gulf, opposite Bahrein. In 1857 Perim was formally and finally annexed, and the Kuria Muria Isles, ceded by the Sultan of Muscat, were added to the group administered by the Political Resident at Aden, who is nominated by the Government of India.

BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Countries

Consists of Aden, Perim, Lahej, Socotra, Bahrein Islands, British Borneo, Hongkong, Straits Settlements, and Malay States. India, with the Andaman, Nicobar, and Laccadive Islands; Burma, a major province of India; and Ceylon, with Maldiv Islands, are described elsewhere.

Exclusive of India and Burma (area 1,802,657 square miles) and Ceylon (area 25,481 square miles), total area is upwards of 140,000 square miles. Population of India and Burma (1921), 319,075,312; Ceylon, 4,500,669; of areas here dealt with, about 4,900,000.

Government

Aden and its dependencies (Perim, Lahej, Socotra, and Kuria Muria Islands) are Protectorates with Political Resident; Socotra having a native sheikh. The Bahrein Islands have native sheikh under British protection. British North Borneo is a Protectorate with Governor under administration of British North Borneo Company. Brunei has a native sultan. Sarawak is an

independent state under British protection with an English raja (Raja Brooke). British Agent for North Borneo and Sarawak and High Commissioner for Brunei is the Governor of the Straits Settlements. Hongkong and the Straits Settlements are Crown Colonies, with a Governor and Executive and Legislative Councils. The Malay States have native rulers with British High Commissioner and Residents; Johore has sultan, assisted by British Adviser and Executive and Legislative Councils.

Aden and Red Sea Territories

ADEN. Area of Settlement and Protectorate about 9,000 square miles; town, 75 square miles; Perim Island, 5 square miles; population of Aden and Perim, 54,923. Fortified coaling station; transhipment trade with adjacent coasts. Exports 1919-20, £6,517,004; imports, £7,124,078.

LAHEJ. Arab town and sultanate in the Aden Protectorate, 18 miles north-west of Aden, connected by railway with Aden.

SOCOTRA. Area, 1,400 square miles; population about 12,000 (Arabs and Hindus). Industries, pastoral. Capital, Tamarida.

BRITISH EMPIRE IN ASIA

KURIA MURIA ISLANDS. Area 29 square miles. Largest Hellaniyeh. Contain guano deposits. Red Sea cable was landed here. Population a few Arabs.

Bahrein Islands

BAHREIN ISLAND is 27 miles long by 10 miles broad; capital, Manama; population, 30,000. **MUHARRAK** is 4 miles long by about half a mile wide; chief town, Muharrak; population, 20,000. Other islands include **SITRA**, **NABI SALEH**, and the uninhabited **Jidi**, **Raka**, and **Um Nahsan**. Pearl fishery yields about £300,000 yearly; there is a fine breed of white donkeys. Population of group, about 100,000, mostly Persians and Arabs. Exports 1919-20, £946,344; imports, £1,414,423. Maria Theresa dollars (3s. 6d. to 4s.), Indian rupees and Turkish lire (about 20s.) are all in use.

British Borneo

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO. Area about 31,100 square miles; population about 227,000 (including about 400 Europeans and 30,000 Chinese); chief products, timber (1919 exports, £127,045), rubber (exports in 1919, £781,603), tobacco (leaf exports 1919, £222,261), rice, sago, spices, coconuts, camphor. Exports, 1919, £1,453,990; imports, £925,235. Chief towns, Sandakan, population about 8,000, Jesselton, Kudat, Tawau.

BRUNEI. Area about 4,000 square miles; population about 30,000; chief town, Brunei, population, 10,000. Exports, 1919, £132,000 (cutch, £35,000; coal, £35,000; rubber, £28,400); imports, £70,000.

SARAWAK. Area about 42,000 square miles; population about 600,000 (Malays, Dayaks, Kayans, Kenyahs, Muruts, and Chinese); capital, Kuching, population about 25,000; other towns, Sibul, Rintula, Kapit, Sadong, Limbang, Kalaka. Large deposits of coal, gold, silver, antimony, mercury; petroleum oil-fields also being developed. Exports, 1919, £2,795,095 (sago flour, £495,807; pepper, £217,824; plantation rubber, £430,377; gutta jelutong, £249,622; and large quantity of liquid fuel), imports, £2,364,208. Currency as Straits Settlements.

Hongkong

Area of island 32 square miles; with Kowloon and New Territories about 391 square miles; population (1921) 622,000 (non-Chinese, about 12,500); capital, Victoria; population, 320,400; population of New Territories, about 94,000 Chinese. Exports, 1919, £103,942,934; imports, £90,651,708. Chief industries: sugar refining, shipbuilding and repairing (there are fine docks and 20,061,264 tons of shipping were entered in 1920), ropemaking, tin refining, manufacture of tobacco and cement, and deep sea fishing. Large trade in sugar, flour, rice, cotton, silks, leather, wolframite, iron and steel goods, tea, oils, matches, etc. Hongkong is headquarters of China squadron. Currency unit is dollar, worth about 3s. 8d.

Straits Settlements

Consist of Singapore island with small islands adjoining, at south-east point of the peninsula (217 square miles); Penang island off north-west coast (108 square miles); Wellesley Province on north-west mainland (280 square miles); the Dindings, including island of Pangkor and a strip on the mainland, (183 square miles) on west; Malacca on south-west coast (about 720 square miles). Also Cocos or Keeling Islands, about 700 miles south-west of Sumatra, Christmas Island, 200 miles east of Cocos Islands (about 56 square miles), and Labuan Island, about

43 miles from Brunei, North Borneo (about 28 square miles). Total area about 1,600 square miles; estimated population (1920) 876,160, consisting of 50 per cent. Chinese, 35 per cent. Malays, 10 per cent. natives of India, Europeans, etc., 5 per cent. Large disproportion of sexes, 65 per cent. male, and 35 per cent. female, due principally to fact that among Chinese only 18 per cent. are females, emigration among Chinese women being negligible. Also among natives of India and Europeans males largely exceed females. Exports, 1919, £99,320,000, include tin (about £18,000,000), rubber (about £20,000,000) gums, spices, copra, rattans, sago, gambier, tapioca, preserved pineapples, phosphates of lime; imports, £96,670,000 (rice, sugar, petroleum, cotton piece goods, coal, etc.).

SINGAPORE. Population (1921) 418,360 (about 6,000 Europeans and Americans). Chief town and seat of Government for Straits Settlements, Singapore (350,360). Harbour is one of greatest ports in the world and is port of call for shipping between Europe, India, and Far East, North Australia, and Dutch Indies. Port is free. Total of all trade (1910) about £224,190,000.

LABUAN, attached to Singapore. Population about 6,000 (mostly Malays). Exports in 1920 were £281,000 (coal, cloth, rice, sago, etc.). Victoria is a fine harbour.

COCOS OR KEELING ISLANDS, attached to Singapore, about 20 small coral islands. Population about 860. Export copra.

MALACCA, largest of Settlements, population (1921) 153,500. Total trade 1920 was £9,245,000 of which rubber exported was £5,043,000. Capital, Malacca.

PENANG OR PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND. Population (1921) 162,144. Total trade 1920 was £67,900,000 of which tin exported was about £6,875,000. Capital, George Town (101,200).

PROVINCE WELLESLEY, attached to Penang, population (1921) 130,340. Highly cultivated with many rice, rubber, and tapioca plantations.

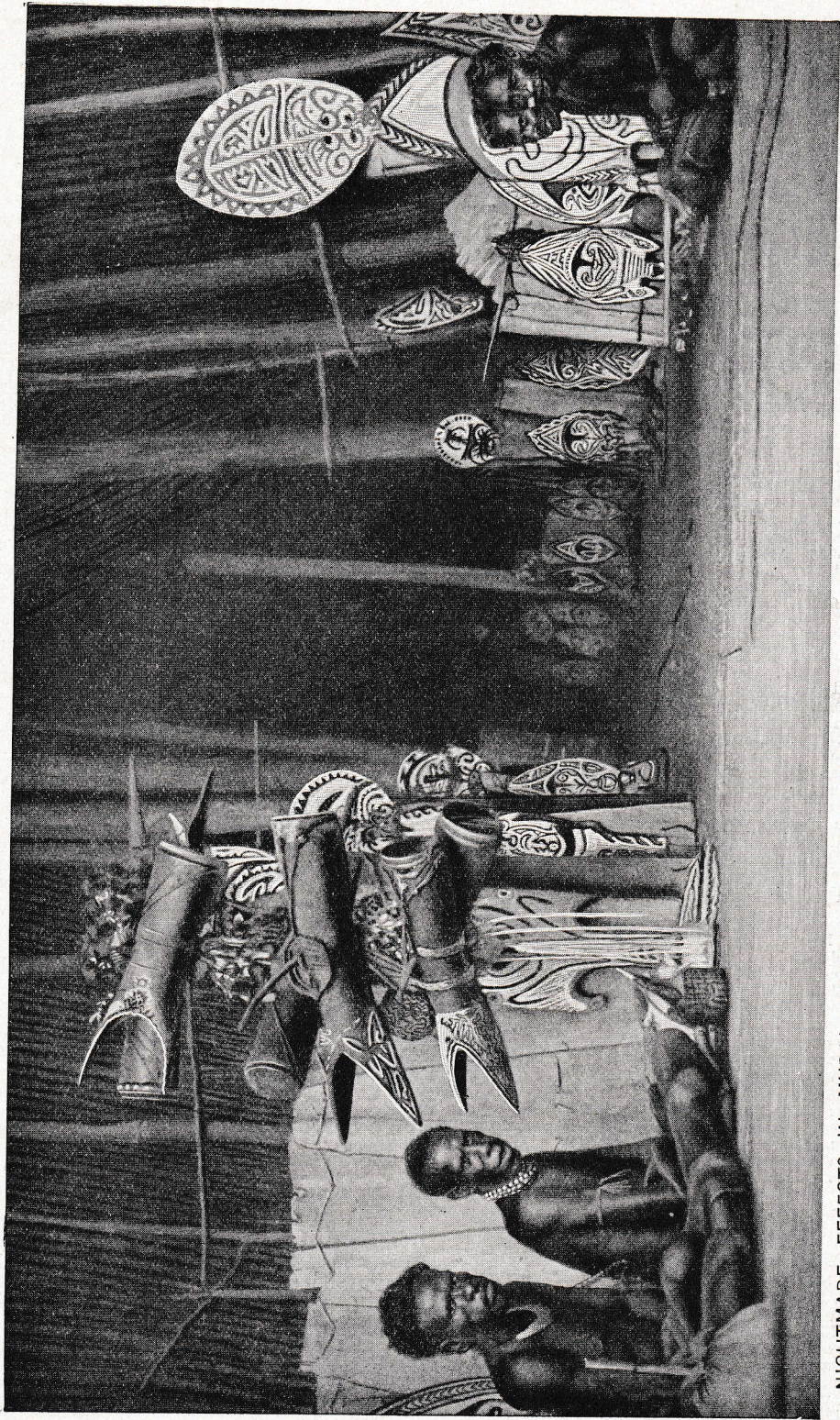
DINDINGS. Population (1921) 11,850. Territory is undeveloped but contains fine natural harbour. Official headquarters, Lumut.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND. Population, 780. Large phosphate deposits (69,575 tons exported in 1920).

Malay States

Four are federated. **PERAK**, area 7,800 square miles; population about 494,000. **SELANGOR**, area, 3,156 square miles; population about 294,000; chief town, Kuala Lumpur, population, 80,424. **NEGRI SEMBILAN**, area 2,550 square miles; population about 130,000. **PAHANG**, area, 14,000 square miles; population about 118,700. Total area, 27,506 miles; total population (1921) 1,324,890 (upwards of 3,000 Europeans and Americans, rest Malays, Chinese, and natives of India). Exports, 1919, £32,505,762 (cultivated rubber, £22,059,244; copra, £600,434; tin and tin ore, £8,745,635; metals, £101,903; timber, £33,304). Imports, £13,866,412. There are 182,000 acres under coconuts; 955,960 tons of timber were taken from the forests in 1919.

FEUDATORY AND PROTECTED. **KEDAH** has an area of 3,800 square miles; population (1921), 338,000; capital, Alor Star, population about 12,000. **PERLIS**, area about 316 square miles; population, 32,740; capital, Kangar. **KELANTAN**, area about 5,870 square miles; population about 287,000; capital, Kota Bharu; population, 10,833. **TRENGGANU**, area about 6,000 square miles; population about 154,000. **JOHORE** (Protected State), area, 9,000 square miles; population, 282,244; capital, Johore Bahru; population, 15,312. Tin mines and rubber are important in Johore; rice, rubber, tapioca, and coconuts in Kedah; agriculture is the chief industry of Kelantan and Trengganu.



NIGHTMARE EFFECTS IN MURAL DECORATION: INTERIOR OF A MEN'S HOUSE IN THE PURARI DELTA, NEW GUINEA
 When about twelve years old the boys are sent to live in houses specially built for bachelors. In these, mats or leaves to sleep on represent the sum of the furniture, their other contents being weapons and boat-gear. Shields are ranged along the floor and on the upright posts are hung carved canoe ornaments and curious mitre-shaped drums made of black wood with white incised patterns